THE TIMES 40P

No. 65,505

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 1996

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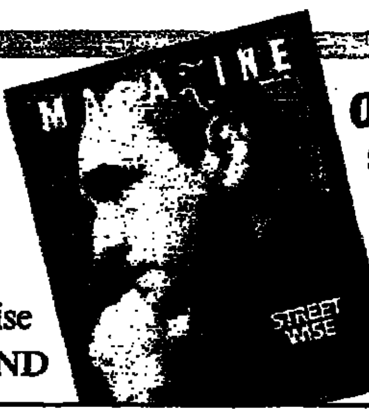

Original sinner

Ginny Dougary meets Martin Scorcese

MAGAZINE, PAGE 8

Police raid 30 houses

£1m reward in hunt for IRA bombers

By Stewart Tendler and Richard Ford

A MILLION-POUND reward for the capture of the Docklands bombers was offered by Scotland Yard yesterday as hundreds of armed police raided more than 30 addresses in the hunt for the IRA terrorists.

John Grieve, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said the reward was being offered by "members of the community" and be hoped that it would tempt people in the underworld to come forward with information.

Hundreds of extra officers had earlier been called up to search some 20 homes in London and another dozen in Kent, Essex and the Midlands. A number of people were being questioned, although none was arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism legislation. A number of items were seized, but police would not say if they included weapons.

Announcing the reward yesterday, Mr Grieve said that the money would be paid either to individuals or a group whose information led to convictions. "We will use every weapon we are given by our communities to bring terrorists to justice. We know some criminals are motivated by money and we can all use that to get the information we need," he said.

Police believe that the IRA has been using sympathisers or activists who are also on the fringes of the criminal world to prepare the new mainland campaign. They may have helped in building the bomb and supplied parts or helped to assemble the Ford Cargo lorry used to plant the device at South Quay last Friday.

Detctives have now pieced together some of the movements of the blue flat-backed lorry, which arrived on the Larne to Stranraer ferry last Wednesday night — although big gaps remain, suggesting that it may have been hidden somewhere.

The lorry was carrying a red trailer with the Irish registration 5157 BI, which had been taken from another Ford Cargo lorry which had been broken up. The trailer would have made the low-loader less suspicious to anyone watching the traffic coming off the ferry. They would have thought the English registered lorry was bringing back a cargo bought somewhere in Ireland.

The lorry passed through Carlisle on its journey south, but then vanished until 8 am on Friday, when it was seen at South Mimms, the service area and junction between the M25 and the M1 in Hertfordshire. The IRA has used this service area before for meetings and to park vehicles for active service units.

After the stop at South Mimms, the lorry vanished again, but police are sure it was driven to another place and then moved one more. By the afternoon it was parked on waste ground in a lane at the bottom of River Road in Barking, east London. The road is lined with industrial sites, warehouses and lorry parks. The lane is a dead end surrounded by lorry companies, a building firm and a crane company.

Yesterday one worker at a nearby firm said that the lorry was parked before lunchtime at a spot regularly used by drivers resting or waiting for one of the many yards and factories in the road to open. Lorries and trailers constantly go by, which means the low loader passed with little notice. The spot could only have been chosen by someone who knew that the bombers could work without interference.

At 4 pm, the trailer was taken off the lorry and abandoned. The bomb built into the back of the lorry was armed and the vehicle disappeared westwards towards Docklands. Over the weekend the trailer lay unoticed on waste ground until local workers called the police on Monday.

Yesterday teams of officers questioned all drivers going in and out of River Road to see if they remembered anything about the lorry.

Scotland Yard also confirmed that they have investigated a postcard sent to two prisoners at Camp Hill prison on the Isle of Wight on January 9. The card, from an IRA sympathiser who had served at the prison, bore a picture of Canary Wharf on one side and the words "Bang Bang" on the other.

SIMON WALKER

Lucien Lawrence, 8, following the coffin of his father, Philip Lawrence, the headmaster killed outside his school, at the funeral at Ealing Abbey in West London yesterday. Page 3

Intelligence shake-up to answer Scott secrecy attack

By Philip Webster, Nigel Williamson and Jill Sherman

CHANGES in the handling of intelligence in Whitehall and new measures to reduce secrecy have been ordered by John Major after sharp criticism in the Scott report.

More intelligence material is expected to be distributed electronically and the Cabinet Office is to go "on line" to improve computer communication with MI5, MI6 and GCHQ.

Sir Richard Scott's report was highly critical of both "the culture of secrecy" in Whitehall and the failure of communication between departments, and the Prime Minister yesterday promised improvements.

Mr Major admitted that it would have been better if intelligence had been properly disseminated. He said: "The fact that there are something like 100,000 pieces of intelligence to be looked at in a short period is a mitigating circumstance, but still it can be improved."

The Prime Minister also continued to defend William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell against opposition resignation calls, saying that Sir Richard Scott's inquiry into arms exports to Iraq had "comprehensively dismissed" damaging allegations against his ministers. But he acknowledged that the report had shown up "shortcomings and mistakes", and promised to learn from them.

Whitehall is already considering plans to:

☐ Review the code on open government;

☐ Reform export controls, particularly arms;

☐ Tighten the rules for ministers answering questions in the Commons;

☐ Curb the freedom of Customs and Excise to bring prosecutions;

☐ Redefine the role and powers of the Attorney-General and the Treasury solicitors;

☐ Review procedures to prevent future inquiries dragging on for three years or more.

The Scott inquiry found that MI6 failed to pass on information that large metal tubes produced by a Midlands manufacturer were probably intended for use in an Iraqi supergun, and the report said that proper use was not made of available intelligence on a number of other occasions.

Sir Richard also complained about the way ministers had replied to parliamentary questions in a way that represented a "deliberate concealment" and he urged a review of the practice whereby information about defence exports need not be given by ministers.

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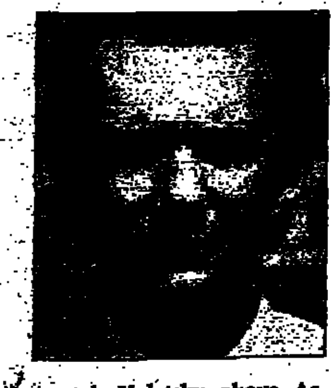
Leading article and Letters, page 23
Vernon Bogdanor, page 22

Times man wins award



Anatole Kaletsky, above, Associate Editor of *The Times*, was yesterday named Commentator of the Year at Granada television's What the Papers Say awards.

The judging panel praised the incisiveness and wit of Mr Kaletsky's economic and political columns, which appear on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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Britain braced for Arctic weather

By Robin Young

BRITAIN is facing more Arctic weather over the weekend with widespread snowfalls and freezing conditions predicted for much of the country by Monday morning.

Today will be wet with strong winds in the northern half of Britain, but with snow confined to hills in northern Scotland. In the South the day will be mild with temperatures of 8C (46F) to 10C (50F).

The cold change is expected tomorrow when rain spreading from the North will turn to sleet or snow and strong north-easterly winds will make it feel much colder as temperatures fall.

The London Weather Centre said last night: "We expect temperatures down to minus 3C by Sunday night, with frequent snow showers continuing into Monday, when temperatures will barely rise above freezing. The strong winds will make it feel very unpleasant and raw, and that is likely to continue through Tuesday and Wednesday." A spokesman added: "This winter is one of the most severe we have had across the country in recent years."

AA Roadwatch said that roads in areas likely to be worst affected would be gritted in advance of the return of frost and snow.

South Wales Electricity, which two weeks ago came in for criticism when thousands of homes were left without power during freezing weather, is on general alert for the next cold spell, with extra staff on standby.

Letters, page 23
Forecast, page 26

Wildlife in danger from oil spillage

By Adam Fresco and Bill Frost

SALVAGE experts aboard a crippled supertanker struggled last night to prevent an environmental catastrophe on the coast of west Wales.

As winds whipped a five-mile oil slick towards one of the most important wildlife habitats in Britain, plans were in hand to offload the remaining cargo of 136,000 tonnes of light crude oil from the Liberian-registered *Sea Empress*, 24 hours after she ran on to rocks near Milford Haven.

A clean-up operation was under way to prevent the spill spreading down the Bristol Channel. An estimated 6,000 tonnes of light crude poured into the sea after the accident on Thursday night. Several hundred tonnes have been washed up on beaches, headlands and nesting areas along the south Pembrokeshire coast. The coastline is home to half a million seabirds and colonies of grey seals.

The Department of Transport's Marine Pollution Control Unit yesterday sent seven aircraft fitted with dispersing spray equipment to the area. They were standing by to be deployed off St Govan's Head, centre of the main slick.

Gangs of council workmen, contractors and Texaco oil company employees were involved in the land clean-up.

Last night the European Commission announced that a European pollution task force had been sent to help clear the spillage. Brussels also promised financial support for the area of up to £250,000, with more cash if necessary to help to save wildlife.

Tugs struggle, page 4

Author of US book exposed

A political columnist with *Newsweek* has been fingered as the likely author of *Prime Colors*, the anonymous novel about scandalous goings-on in a US presidential election.

Joe Klein, an experienced reporter of the Washington scene, was named by Donald Foster, a professor at Vassar University, who used a computer to compare his work with the output of "Anonymous". Mr Klein, who is in New Hampshire covering the Republican primary, has left a less than convincing denial on his telephone answering machine..................Weekend

Dürer at risk

The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge has been told to find £10 million to save one of Dürer's greatest masterpieces, *St Jerome in the Wilderness*, for the nation. The Bacon Baronetcy Trust is putting it up for sale.................. Page 3

Australian drivers are just the ticket for Oxford buses

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

AN Oxford bus company has recruited thirty drivers from Australia after failing to find enough in Britain.

The first two to arrive will be wishing passengers *G'day* on routes between Oxford city centre and the suburb of Kidlington from next week after their 27-hour flights from the 35C (95F) heat of Brisbane.

The recruits, London-born David Manchard, 48, and Joe Lally, 45, who was born in Scotland, said they were attracted by the excitement and challenge of working abroad, but would lose financially by it.

Harry Blundred, chairman of Thames Transit, which has a sister company in Australia, said the decision to recruit on the other side of the world was taken after a fruitless British advertising campaign.

It was far cheaper to pay the £400 single air ticket to fly qualified drivers from Brisbane than to train Britons. It takes up to three months to train a new driver, at a cost of about £2,500. The Antipodean drivers will initially be paid around £250 a week, about £50 less than they could earn in Brisbane. However, their weekly earnings could rise to around £350 if they are promoted to the company's flagship "Oxford Tube" coach services to London.

They will live initially with colleagues, before finding rented accommodation. Several are bringing their families with them.

Mr Manchard and Mr Lally said the main difficulty was getting used to the dramatic change in climate, and complained about English days that "start cold and never warm up". Mr Blundred said there had been an explosion of demand for bus drivers in the Oxford area since bus deregulation ten years ago, which sparked a series of ruthless "bus wars" in the city. There are now around 500 bus services for Oxford's population of about 100,000.

In Queensland, dozens of bus drivers are on the dole. Australian drivers have the advantage over their Continental counterparts of speaking English, being used to driving on the left and holding licences that are accepted in Britain.

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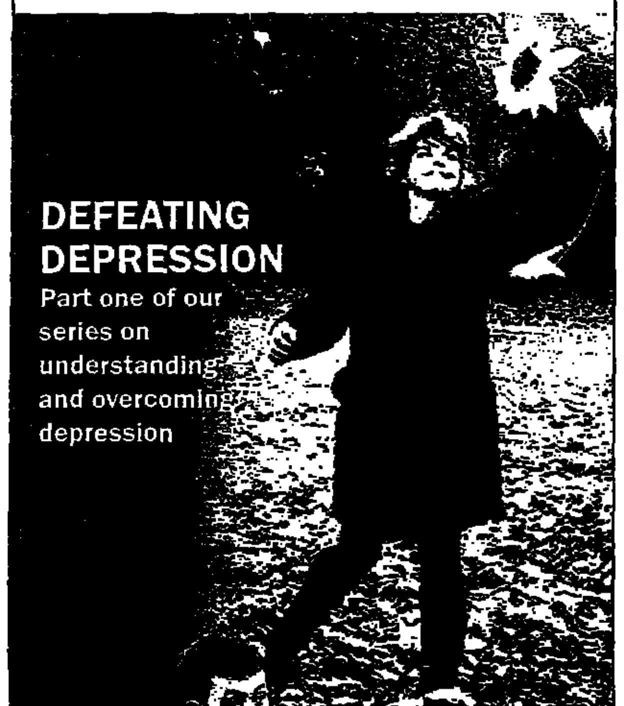

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Part one of our series on understanding and overcoming depression

12 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT

Rob Hughes on Shrewsbury v Liverpool

David Miller on Manchester United v Manchester City

Alan Lee on England v UAE in the cricket World Cup

EVERY DAY NEXT WEEK: COLLECT TOKENS FOR FIVE HOURS OF FREE PHONE CALLS

Mail accused over Leeson's book

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE *Daily Mail* has been accused of bank-rolling Nick Leeson, the rogue trader who brought down Barings Bank, by paying hundreds of thousands of pounds to promote his autobiography.

The Press Complaints Commission is to investigate a complaint from a reader that the *Mail* broke the newspaper industry's code of practice by publicising its serialisation of Leeson's book on television.

The commission's code bans payment for stories "to people engaged in crime or to their associates" except where the material "ought to be published in the public interest". It also states that its rules should be applied "in the spirit as well as in the letter".

Leeson's publisher, Little Brown, confirmed that the *Mail* had acquired the serialisation rights "for free" in return for promoting the book. The cost of the advertisements is understood to be about £300,000. Leeson, who was jailed for 6½ years in Singapore in December, is expected to benefit financially from the deal by way of increased sales of his book, *Rogue Trader*.

Peter Wright, deputy editor of the newspaper, said it was confident it had not broken the code of practice. "The *Daily Mail* paid no money for this book. We did advertise it on television but it is our normal practice to advertise major serialisations on television," he said.

Others in the newspaper industry have expressed concern that the paper has found a backdoor way of paying for criminals' stories. Charles Moore, Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, said his paper had refused to serialise the book. "The point simply is that Leeson will end up profiting from the serialisation. Whether they paid him directly or indirectly is not material."

Richard Addis, Editor of the *Daily Express*, said: "If the *Daily Mail* has in some way made Nick Leeson better off by doing what it has done, it seems that perhaps it has broken the spirit of the code."

Peter Preston, Editor in Chief of *The Guardian* and *The Observer* newspapers, said that while the *Mail* may not have breached the letter of the industry's code, its actions had raised serious questions which the commission needed to resolve. "The spirit of the code is that criminals should not be allowed to profit from their crimes and Leeson is a convicted criminal."

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the PCC, said that the complaint about the *Mail* would be considered by the commission in the normal way. "We would not make any comment about its merits under the code until there has been a proper investigation."

Rosalie McFarlane, publicity director for Little Brown, said that Leeson intended to use the £450,000 advance he received for the book, plus any further royalties, to pay his legal fees. She pointed out that book publishers are not bound by any rules banning payments to criminals.

"Leeson's story is one that needed to be told. If he had been a serial killer, we might not have published it. It all depends on the nature of the crime," she said.

ALAN LEWIS

Crowds at the peace rally organised by trade unions in Belfast yesterday: Sinn Fein supporters faced criticism when they tried to join in

IRA faces anger as peace protests grow

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of people in the north and south of Ireland registered their anger with the IRA yesterday for breaking its ceasefire. Protestants and Catholics stood together at peace rallies.

As Irish government officials held their first face-to-face meeting with Sinn Fein since the Docklands bomb, the IRA faced mounting pressure on both sides of the border not to jeopardise 17 months of peace.

Dick Spring, Ireland's deputy prime minister, led the calls for peace when he launched a campaign in Dublin to encourage people to wear white ribbons. More than 12,000 of the ribbons were distributed throughout the Republic. The Irish rugby team, which has players from both sides of the border, will wear the ribbons today when it takes on France in Paris.

Mr Spring said: "White is the colour of peace and all people who want peace now should wear a white ribbon over the coming days."

His dismay at the collapse of the ceasefire was shared by tens of thousands of people who turned out at peace rallies in Belfast, Armagh, Enniskillen, and across the border in Dublin, Limerick and Galway. RTE, the Irish state broadcasting company, held a minute's silence at 12.30pm.

By 5.00pm more than 36,000 had registered their support for peace in a telephone poll organised by the five Belfast newspapers. The only sour note of the rallies came when Sinn Fein supporters moved in with banners calling for "All party peace talks" at the largest rally outside Belfast City Hall. One trade unionist turned to a member of Sinn Fein and said: "How can you come here after the bomb in London?"

John Monks, the General Secretary of the TUC, told the rally, which was organised by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, that the IRA attack was "cowardly and indiscriminate". His anger was shared by people in the crowd who carried banners which said "No going back" and "Say yes to peace."

A married couple demonstrated Northern Ireland's determination not to slip back into the violence of the Troubles when they revealed that they have received 100,000 letters and cards since launching a peace group after the Docklands bomb. Gavin and Margaret Walker, from Bangor, Co Down, who have a 15-month-old son, personally delivered some letters to political parties in Belfast yesterday, including Sinn Fein.

Senior officials of the Irish government met Gerry Adams at a secret location. Dublin cut off ministerial contact with Sinn Fein after the bombing, and the officials said the IRA must restore its ceasefire before the party can rejoin the political process. Mr Spring said the officials planned to "give vent" to the Government's anger. He also signalled a softening of his opposition to Britain's plans for elections: "If it transpires that the only route to all-party talks that is certain is through an elective process, then we should not rule that out."

Mr Adams said after the meeting that he was no more optimistic, and insisted that the peace process could be rebuilt only if the two governments agree to all-party negotiations. At Sinn Fein offices in West Belfast, he said: "The ceasefire has to be restored. It is a matter of how it can be restored and when it can be restored."

Sinn Fein contacts with the Irish government played a key role in persuading the IRA to call a ceasefire in 1994. Mr Adams's grim demeanour yesterday showed that the IRA bombs have dealt a devastating blow to the relationship.

Intelligence

Continued from page 1

The Cabinet Office said that the reform of intelligence handling was "to ensure that the right intelligence material is sent on time to the right person". In particular, new technology would be harnessed to "make the retrieval, storage and analysis of material easier, quicker and more accurate".

The Ministry of Defence has commissioned a study of computer technology in intelligence handling, while the Department of Trade and Industry plans to introduce an IT system to handle intelligence reports.

In his first response to the Scott report yesterday, Mr Major praised the "very thorough, very competent" handling of the inquiry and said: "The report was about whether innocent men were going to be sent to jail by conspiracy and whether Saddam Hussein was being armed by the British Government. These frankly were the smears that Robin Cook and others have run. They are comprehensively dismissed and I don't think you can overlook the fact that is what the report was about. There is no doubt that did not happen. It never occurred to me for a second these charges could conceivably be true but it was important the British nation realised they weren't true, now they do."

Labour and the Liberal Democrats nevertheless joined forces yesterday to demand that Mr Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas resign.

They are hoping that over the weekend some Conservative MPs will come to agree with them and Rupert Allason was yesterday the first to break ranks and cast doubts on Sir Nicholas's chances of survival.

Sir Nicholas is, however, supported today by six leading QCs who say in a letter to *The Times* that he followed recognised procedures fairly and properly in the Matrix Churchill case.

Al Fayed agrees to libel payout

Mohamed Al Fayed agreed yesterday to pay six-figure damages to Christoph Bettermann, former deputy chairman at Harrods, whom he had accused of embezzling millions of dollars. The Harrods chairman settled the libel action against Herr Bettermann, 48, days before a High Court trial was due to begin. Herr Bettermann was advised to sue by his English-born wife, Francesca, who used to work in the Harrods legal department. Mr Al Fayed will also pay costs.

Goldsmith enlists 400 to fight treaty

Sir James Goldsmith, the Euro-sceptic financier, is reported to have recruited more than 400 prospective candidates to stand for his Referendum Party at the next general election.

Sir James intends to field candidates in seats where *none of the representatives of* the main parties has pledged support for a referendum on *the Maastricht* treaty.

Transsexuals lose High Court battle

Two transsexuals who were certified as male at birth have lost their High Court battle for the right to be legally recognised as women. The pair, known as "P" and "G", were refused leave to appeal for a judicial review of the refusal of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages to allow them to alter the sex on their birth certificates.

Homebuyers must beware

Enfield Borough Council in north London lost an appeal against a ruling that local estate agents acted in good faith when they were told by the seller that a bungalow had planning permission when it did not have. The appeal confirms the understanding that solicitors rather than estate agents are responsible for checking for planning irregularities.

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Jewel thief, 67, promises to retire

Judge takes pity on ageing Raffles who lost his touch

By Paul Wilkinson

A JUDGE took pity yesterday on an ageing jewel thief when he promised to retire after almost half a century of international crime. Morris Spurling, known to Interpol as Morry The Head because he is bald, stole jewels worth millions of pounds in his crooked career.

Described in court as a Raffles-type character, his life of crime began shortly after the Second World War when he stole from the jet-setters he lived among on the Riviera and the resorts of South Africa.

But yesterday, aged 67 and reduced to living in a hostel in Milton Keynes, he turned up at Teesside Crown Court with his bags packed for a spell in prison after admitting the theft of five gold chains from a shop in Thirsk, North Yorkshire, last September.

Gordon Nuttal, the Assistant Recorder, accepted his promise and put Spurling on probation for two years. Outside court Spurling wiped away a tear as he leaned on his walking stick and said the judge had been marvellous: "I'm a silly old thing, and it is time to give it up.

"I've never stolen jewels from a beautiful woman, only from shops and warehouses. The most valuable item was a diamond and emerald necklace in Rome 20 years ago, worth £500,000 then. But I have had an incredible life. I've got more stories in me than Hemingway."

Leslie Spittle, in mitigation, said: "It is not only in fiction that a Raffles-type jewel thief ends up in the south of France with a blonde on the arm and a yacht in the bay. You look beyond me into the dock and you see the reality.

"But at 67 with no money, no family really, as he would put it, it's not worth the candle. It is a pathetic, sad picture. He is amusing, intelligent, irritating and frustrating. But he is not without hope."

Mr Spittle said Spurling had stolen because he was addicted to gambling. It was more than 30 years since a court spared him jail. He had spent 41 of his last 45 years behind bars. "He has realised that if he does not stop offending, then all he has got left is his final years as a guest of Her Majesty.

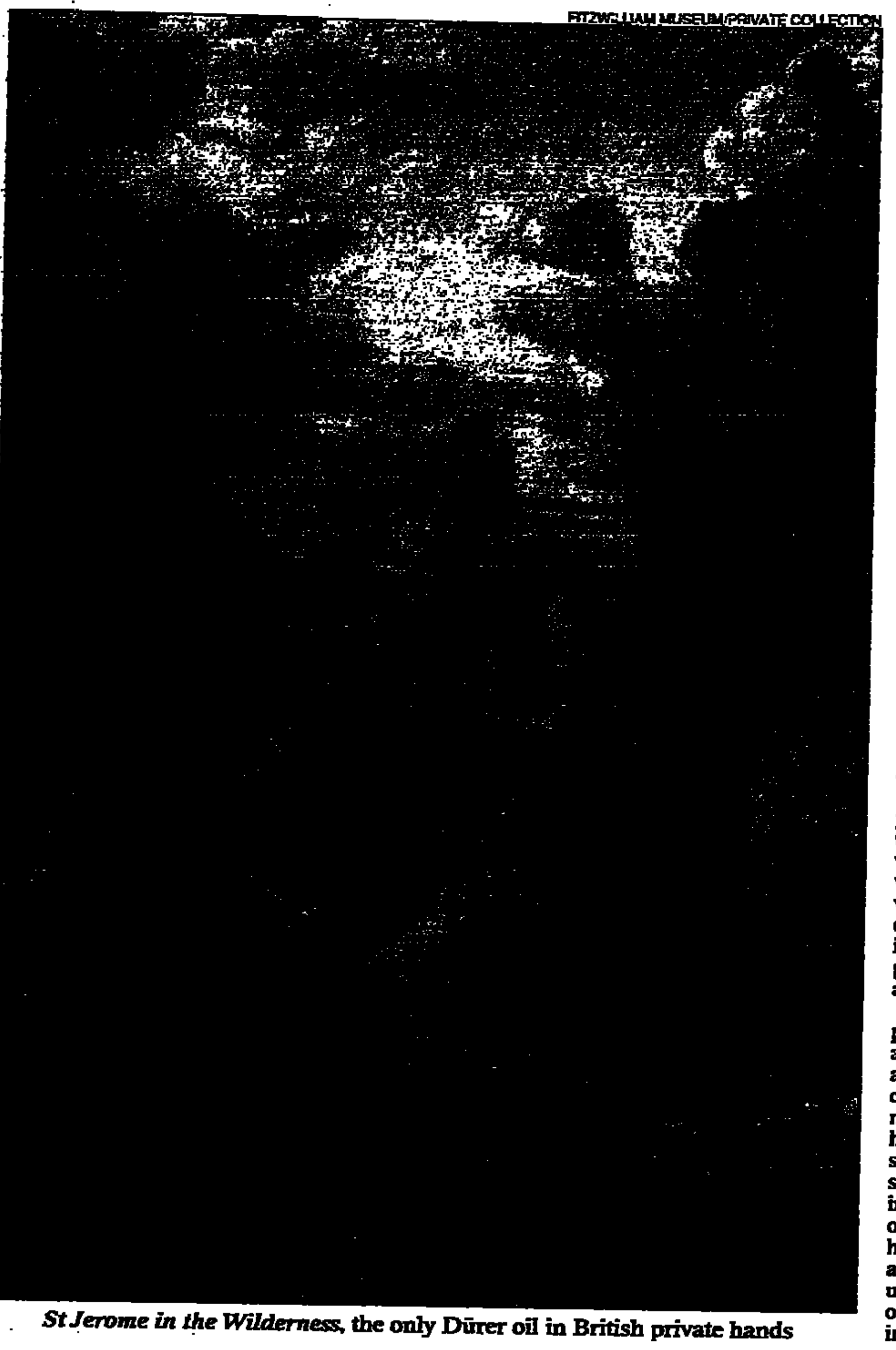
"He ought to take up smoking a pipe, buy a pair of carpet slippers and leave other people's jewellery alone."

The judge told Spurling: "I am going to take what must be regarded as a wholly exceptional course and if I am going to attract criticism for that I am going to have to endure it, but I am going to give you that chance at your time of life."

Spurling was caught on a security video in the jewellers. By chance the policeman sent to the shop had stopped Spurling earlier that morning for a motoring offence and noted the registration number of his rented car.

Jane Waugh, for the prosecution, said Spurling was jailed for six years in Nice in 1964 for jewel thefts and banned from there for two years. In 1970 he was jailed for five years at the Middlesex Area Sessions for stealing 56 rings and a brooch and obtaining gold and silver watches by deception.

In 1975 he was jailed for nine years in Johannesburg for stealing diamonds then worth £400,000. He was also jailed in Brussels for jewel thefts. His last conviction was 12 months jail imposed at Exeter in 1994, his first in 1950.



FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM/PRIVATE COLLECTION

St Jerome in the Wilderness, the only Dürer oil in British private hands

£10m needed to save Dürer's gem for nation

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

THE Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge has been told to find £10 million to save one of Dürer's greatest masterpieces, *St Jerome in the Wilderness*, for the nation.

The owners of the picture, the Bacon Baronetcy Trust, whose main trustee is the landowner Sir Nicholas Bacon of Raveningham Hall in Norfolk, have decided to put it up for sale 40 years after lending their treasured exhibit to the Fitzwilliam. Experts fear the painting, which dates from about 1494 and measures 9in by 7in, might go abroad if it were sold on the open market.

St Jerome is the only oil painting by the German master (1471-1528) in British private hands. Most of Dürer's work is scattered among the world's museums. There are only two other Dürer paintings, both portraits, in British galleries: the Royal Collection and the National Gallery.

The family purchased the painting for £30 in the 1840s as the work of a minor Italian artist. In 1956 it was authenticated as the work of the great northern artist by the art historian David Carritt, who stumbled across a Dürer study that resembled the lion in the painting. There were other stylistic clues in the handling of the landscape and figure. The Bacon family, unable to afford the insurance of their newly valued painting, decided to lend it to the Fitzwilliam. Duncan Robinson, the Fitzwilliam's director, said: "This is a picture that shouldn't leave the country. The word 'jewel' always come to mind. It's a gem of a picture. The paint is as fresh as the day it was applied. The colours have a vibrancy. It is as dazzling as a most spectacular illuminated manuscript."

It has been suggested that if the painting came on to the open market, it could fetch £15 million. A private treaty sale, with its tax concessions, would enable the Fitzwilliam to acquire it for less.

Mr Robinson said: "We are not likely to raise it from our own funds unless there is massive public support." The museum is approaching heritage bodies for help. The National Art Collections Fund, the leading art charity, has donated about £300,000. A spokeswoman said: "We regard this as a unique possibility. How often do paintings by Dürer come up for sale?"

The museum fears that, unless it can raise the money, American and German collections in particular would put up a hard fight to acquire a Dürer. Scholars are mystified by the image on the reverse of the panel, which shows a yellow fireball in the sky.

Dürer, who would have been 23 or 24, was in Venice studying the Italian masters at the time. Their influence would explain the original attribution to an Italian artist.

Cherrie: powerful talent

Equity in move to bar 'black Brando'

By Dalya Alberge

THE actors' union Equity is trying to block a Trinidadian actor, described by Sir Peter Hall as a "black Marlon Brando", from appearing at the National Theatre because they say the role could be taken by a British actor.

Sir Peter said that Michael Cherrie, 24, was an extraordinarily powerful talent. "He is extremely witty and dangerous on screen. The camera loves him. I would love to see him work at the National or Royal Shakespeare Company." He intended to cast Cherrie in his National Theatre production of *Oedipus*.

Equity, however, is not convinced that none of its 42,000 members could have taken the role. The union represents a profession in which 25 per cent of members did not work last year and only 12 per were employed for more than 40 weeks.

An Equity spokesman said the union had advised the Department of Employment that a permit should not be issued because there was no evidence that any attempt had been made to find an actor in Britain. The union is waiting for more evidence from Sir Peter, who says that he and his casting director looked at 100 actors before casting Cherrie.

Stabbed head was my daddy, boy tells funeral

By Dominic Kennedy

THE eight-year-old son of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster who was killed outside his school, led mourners in prayer at the funeral service yesterday.

The top of Lucien Lawrence's red head was just visible above the lectern where his father used to read the epistle at Sunday Mass in Ealing Abbey, west London.

"God in heaven, help us to think for a minute about the time when we all met my daddy," he said. "Help us to think of his kindness. Not only was he headmaster but he was my daddy too.

"I remember the time he bought me something even though it was too expensive, the time he learnt me to spell words, how gentle he was. We played football in the hallway even when he had lots of work to do. Loving God, help us to pray that we will meet my daddy again."

Lucien's older sister Unity, in her bidding prayers at the Requiem Mass, linked the end of the IRA ceasefire with the violent death of her father. "This week has shown us a world in which peace is fragile and promises are broken," she said. "May we always be true to ourselves so that we may live with one another in peace and unity."

Frances Lawrence, the headmaster's widow, read from the first letter of St John: "In love there is no room for fear, but perfect love drives out fear, and whoever is afraid has not come to perfection in love."

Michael Hopley, the family's parish priest, said Mrs Lawrence had chosen the reading because it underlined some of the affection Mr Lawrence held towards her and their four children: Maroushka, 21, Myfanwy, 17, Unity, 13, and Lucien. "Philip first met Frances when they were both teaching here at St Benedict's School. 'That's the girl I'm going to marry' became a fulfilled prophecy in 1973. Last Saturday they would have celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary," said Father Michael.

"In one of the thousands of letter that Frances received, a parent quoted his eight-year-old son, 'Dad, what Philip did is like Jesus did, isn't it?' "

The family remained composed throughout although some in the congregation sobbed as Mefanwy played Fauré's plaintive *Elégie* as a cello solo.

Before the funeral service, as the family arrived on the steps of the abbey, Mrs Lawrence, in a long, dark brown coat and carrying a posy of red roses, handed a single flower to each of her children.

They walked slowly up the aisle of the 19th-century church and each placed a rose on the coffin, which had been waiting in front of the altar.

After Mass, Lucien was given the bunch of roses to carry out of the abbey before his father was interred.

Police saluted as two bishops, an abbot, the Mayor of Ealing, the local MP, several headmasters, 300 mourners, his mother and three big sisters were led out of church by a striding little boy in his best jacket and trousers, now the man of the family.

☐ A 15-year-old boy has been charged with murdering Mr Lawrence last December and a boy aged 14 is accused of conspiracy to wound another 14-year-old boy. An appeal to help the Lawrences and create a memorial has raised £112,000. Donations to The Philip Lawrence Memorial Fund should be sent c/o Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove, London W5 2DY.

Fallen computer whiz-kid logs off after avoiding jail

By Stephen Farrell

A FORMER schoolboy prodigy who set up his own computer company at the age of 16 declared his eight-year business career over yesterday, after narrowly avoiding jail for for extortion and managing companies while bankrupt.

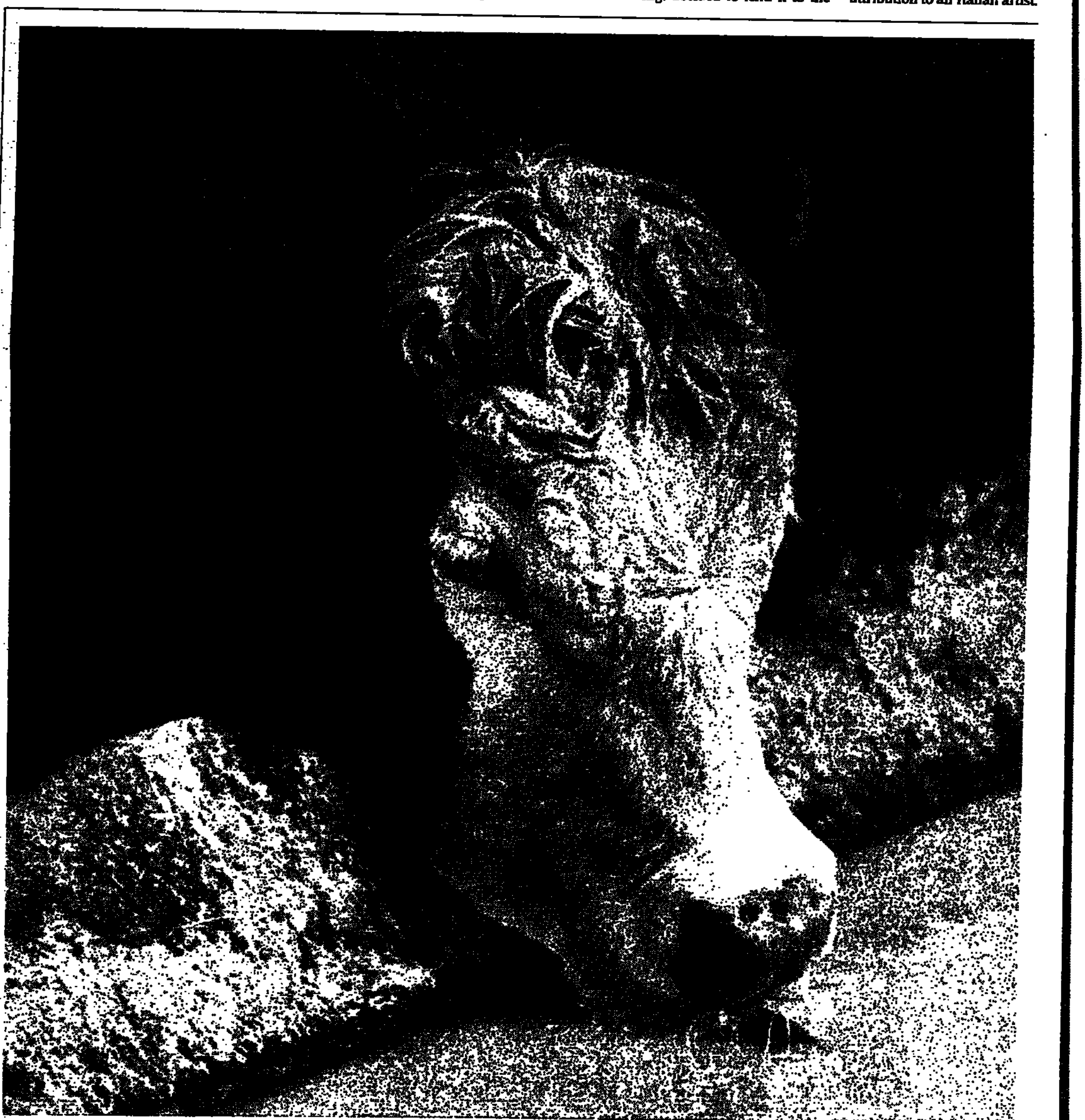
Gary Marshall, who owned a Lotus at 17 before he could even drive, was fined £2,000 and ordered to carry out 240 hours of community service. It was his second court appearance within two years.

His business empire had collapsed in 1994 with debts of £350,000, and creditors won a court order banning him from being involved in the management of a company for eight years. Marshall, now 24, ignored the ruling and set up new companies, disguising his involvement.

Last December he was found guilty of being concerned in the management of four companies, Total Technology, PC Express, Total Computers, and ICRG, based in Aberdeen. He was also found guilty of extorting £3,000 in cheques from two directors, Kenneth Holmes and Stephen Canvery. Yesterday the Aberdeen Sheriff, Robert McCallum, said that the offences were serious, but did not warrant a prison sentence.

Later Marshall said he was glad to avoid jail, but described his business failure as a "large regret". He had no intention of holding directorships when his ban expires in six years: "The last year has been one heck of a strain. I now want to lead a quiet life and get back to normality."

Marshall left Aberdeen Grammar School at 16 and set up his first computer company. By 18 he was managing director of three. But soaring costs caught up with him. He took orders but could not supply the equipment.



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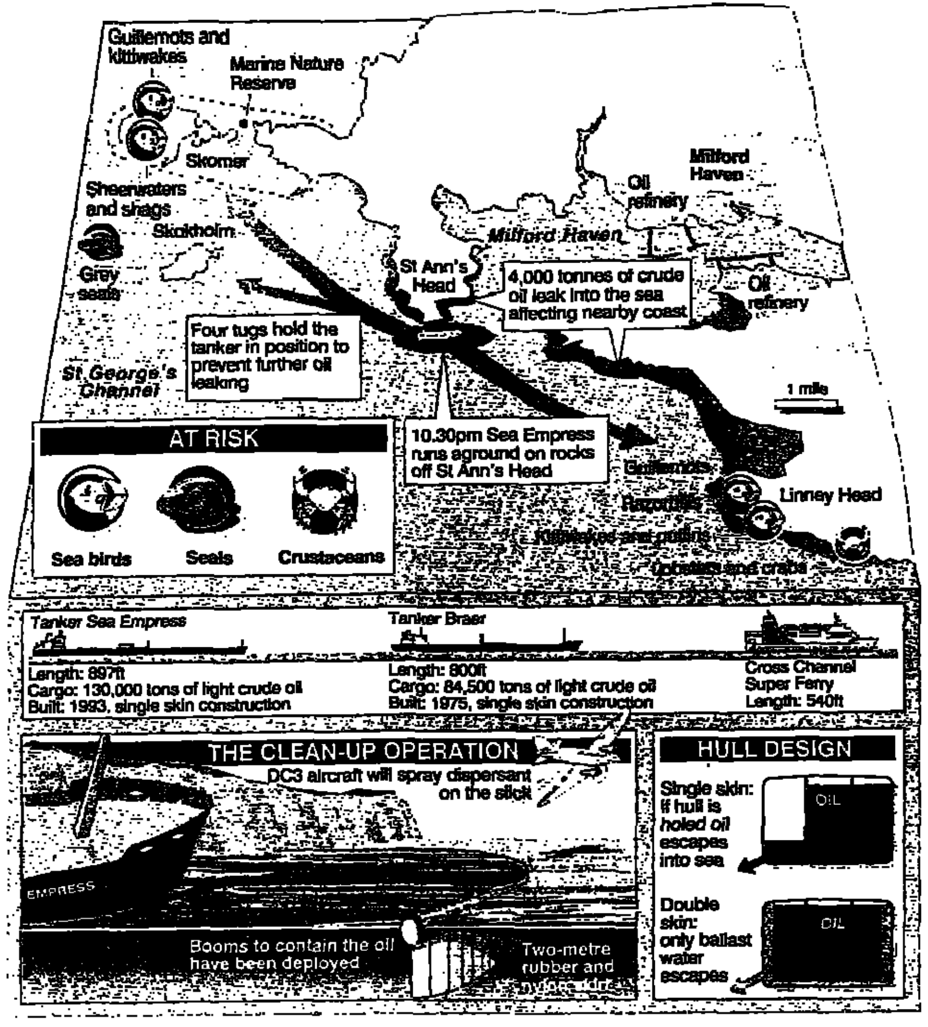
Tugs battle to keep stricken oil tanker afloat

THE POLLUTION THREAT AFTER TANKER RUNS AGROUND


Guillemots and kittiwakes
Marine Nature Reserve
Skomer
Shearwaters and shags
Skokholm
Grey seals
Milford Haven
Oil refinery
Milford Haven
St Ann's Head
4,000 tonnes of crude oil leak into the sea affecting nearby coast
Oil refinery
Four tugs hold the tanker in position to prevent further oil leaking
St George's Channel
1 mile
AT RISK
Sea birds
Seals
Crustaceans
10.30pm Sea Empress runs aground on rocks off St Ann's Head
Guillemots
Razorbills
Linney Head
Kittiwakes and puffins
Lobsters and crabs
Tanker Sea Empress
Length: 897ft
Cargo: 130,000 tons of light crude oil
Built: 1993, single skin construction
Tanker Braer
Length: 800ft
Cargo: 84,500 tons of light crude oil
Built: 1975, single skin construction
Cross Channel Super Ferry
Length: 540ft
THE CLEAN-UP OPERATION
DC3 aircraft will spray dispersant on the slick
EMPRESS
Booms to contain the oil have been deployed
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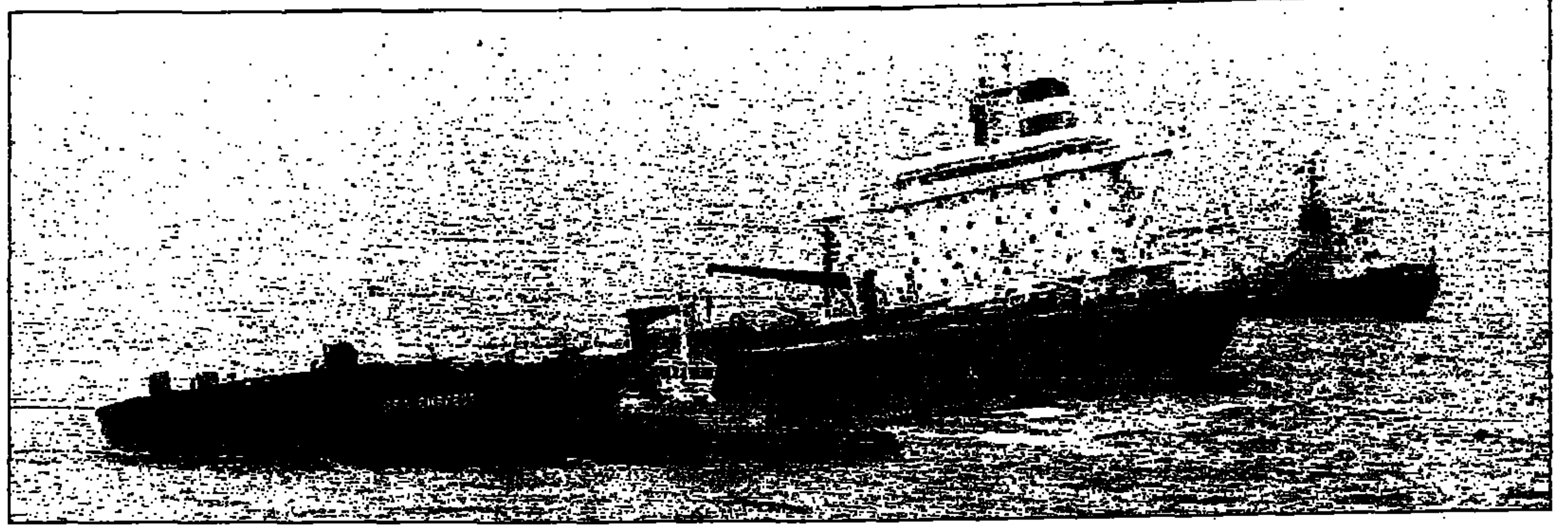
OIL
Double skin: only ballast water escapes
OIL



By Adam Fresco, Bill Frost and Nick Nuttall

PROTECTIVE booms were placed in front of vulnerable and environmentally important marshlands in West Wales last night in case more crude oil leaks from the stricken *Sea Empress*, which has *already lost at least* 4,000 tonnes. The technique was perfected during the Gulf War after the Iraqi army sabotaged Kuwaiti installations to try to cause an environmental disaster.

Two teams of Dutch divers assessed the supertanker's damaged pump room and the cargo tanks holed in the accident. The *Sea Empress* remained afloat and was being kept in position by four tugs off St Ann's Head at the entrance to Milford Haven. If the weather allowed, a smaller 30,000-tonne tanker, *Star Bergen*, was to be brought alongside to transfer some of the oil *before the ship was moved* into harbour for repairs.

Coastguards declared a full-scale emergency after the tanker ran into trouble as she headed for the Texaco refinery, one of three in Milford Haven that produce a quarter of the nation's petrol.

Joe Small, head of the Department of Transport's Marine Pollution Control Unit, said: "So far there is no

Winds threaten coast clean-up

deterioration in the ship's *condition* or any further loss of oil."

However, conservation groups said that it would be several days before the full impact was known. Louise Tickle of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said volunteers would be standing *by throughout the weekend to* help casualties. "Given the amount of oil that has gone into the sea, we are not that hopeful of escaping serious problems," she said.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, flew over the *Sea Empress* in a helicopter late yesterday afternoon and viewed the main slick. After a briefing by harbour officials and the anti-pollution team, *he* said: "Everything *possible is being done to make* sure no more oil leaks from the vessel. There is also a lot of work going on to deal with the pollution both at sea and ashore."

The London Weather Centre last night confirmed the environmentalists' worst fears, forecasting winds of 30mph. A spokesman said: "The winds are going to be very lively, starting in a north-*westerly direction* and then moving more westerly."

Sir George said that a full inquiry into the accident had already begun. He added: "Clearly, there was either a loss of power or loss of steerage which resulted in it going aground."

A spokesman for the *ship's* owners travelled to Milford Haven to help the inquiry. John Brechin, operations manager of the Glasgow-based Acomarit (UK) Ltd, said: "It's too early to determine the cause of the accident but we are working closely with the authorities to find out exactly what happened."

He confirmed that an experienced pilot was aboard the tanker, which went into service *in* 1993.

The clean-up operation launched yesterday is organised by the so-called "dirty dozen" who work under the Marine Pollution Control Unit's chief executive, Chris Harris.

Based at Southampton, the unit works to a national contingency plan which sets out procedures to be followed. It first sets up a marine emergency operations room at the Coastguard Agency headquarters in Southampton and arranges for a joint response centre as near as possible to the scene of the incident. This local centre takes on-scene decisions and is responsible for beach cleaning, while the unit at *Southampton deals* with the sea clean-up.

The unit can call upon seven DC3 aircraft, of which five are based at Coventry and two at Inverness. The aircraft are used to spray the oil from about 25ft above the sea.

Also at *the* unit's disposal are two Cessna light aircraft which can be used for aerial surveillance. Their electronic equipment can detect the position, *nature and extent of oil* slicks on the surface.

An oil spill information centre at Southampton has a computer which, when fed with the appropriate data, provides a reliable prediction of the spread and movement of any slick.

Demands grow for inner hull to reduce leaks

By Bill Frost

THE spill could have been prevented if the *Sea Empress* been double and not single-hulled, it was claimed yesterday by merchant marine officers, conservationists and Labour politicians. They *pointed out that not one drop* of oil escaped into the sea last October when the "twin-skinned" tanker *Borga* ran aground at the same spot and in similar weather.

In the United States, single-hull tankers are banned from coastal waters. Washington, unlike London, bowed to pressure from environmentalists and marine safety bodies.

Graham Allen, a Labour *transport spokesman*, said: "Double hulls should be a requirement of entry to ports such as Milford Haven where marine life needs to be protected. In addition, the enforcement of escort-towing to cover for mechanical failure would prevent accidents like this." Mr Allen *said that coastguard* manpower at the site of the accident was unacceptably low because of government "cost-cutting".

Numast, the merchant navy officers' union, described the latest incident as "a disaster waiting to happen". Brian Orrell, *the general secretary*, said ministers were playing "Russian roulette by allowing ever-increasing amounts of flag-of-convenience shipping to take our trade while presiding over the demise of the British fleet."

The International Maritime *Organisation* (IMO) is still considering a call for all new tankers to be double-hulled. In a report after the *Braer* spill in 1993, Lord Donaldson of Lymington said that a great deal of research remained to be done "before anyone is in a *position to say, unequivocally*, which design is the most effective".

The *Braer*, which was Liberian-registered, as is the *Sea Empress*, spilt 84,000 tonnes of crude oil after it ran aground off the Shetland Islands in January 1993. Lord Donaldson recommended the IMO closely monitor double-hulled tankers "to obtain a clearer picture".

Captain Peter Cooney, *managing* director of Glasgow-based Acomarit (UK) Ltd which manages the *Sea Empress*, said: "Single-hulled ships are perfectly safe."

A company spokesman said that the vessel was skippered by Eduard Bolgov, who with *his Russian crew has* been with the ship since her launch in 1993.

The Chamber of Shipping, which represents owners and operators, last night rejected suggestions that single-hull vessels should be phased out as soon as possible. "If you hit an obstacle hard enough in a twin-hulled tanker you will come to grief too when the second skin is breached. Mothballing the single-hulled tankers would simply ensure that the oil industry had real problems with deliveries. There are not that many double-hull vessels about yet."

Seabirds at risk as spill comes ashore

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

THOUSANDS of seabirds, including guillemots, fulmars, gulls, *shags*, *razorbills*, gannets and cormorants, are at risk from the oil spill. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the region had been identified for possible designation under European Union law as a "special area of conservation" because of the international importance of its marine life.

Guillemots and other seabirds, which spend the winter out at sea feeding on fish, are just starting to return to coastal nesting sites in cliffs and dunes. Fortunately, the *oil appeared to be moving* away from the tiny islands of Skomer, Skokholm and Grassholm, home to grey seals as well as large breeding populations of seabirds and the world's second biggest *colony of gannets*.

The most immediate threat is to bird colonies along the stretch of coast known as Freshwater West to the south of Milford Haven where some oil is already reported to have come ashore. If the oil drifts further to the east it could threaten a cormorant colony on St Margaret's Island and large numbers of scoter — sea ducks — in Carmarthen Bay.

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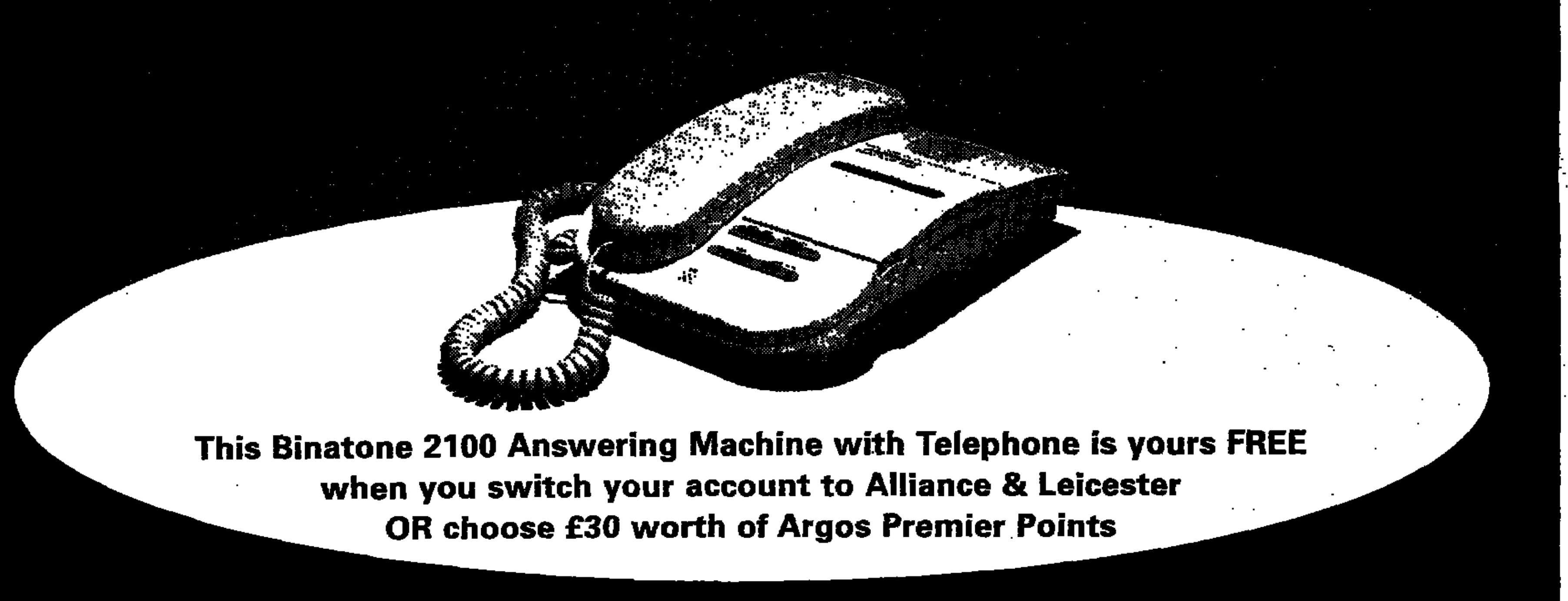

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MPs back tougher action against noisy neighbours

By Alice Thomson
Political Reporter

ROWDY neighbours face £40 fines and the confiscation of hi-fi equipment if they refuse to tone down night-time revelry under a Bill supported by the Commons yesterday.

The Private Member's Bill, which clamps down on loud noise between 11pm and 7am and will apply to sounds ranging from music systems to domestic machinery, was given an unopposed second reading. Noise must exceed 35 decibels when measured in the complainant's house.

First-time offenders will be given a £40 spot fine and persistent offenders will be fined a maximum £1,000. They could also lose their CD and record collections as well as stereo systems.

James Clappison, a junior Environment Minister, said the Government considered the Bill an important piece of social legislation. He said 35 decibels was equivalent to the noise experienced in the front bedroom of a house on a busy suburban road at night.

All sides of the House welcomed the move although most backbenchers thought the Bill should have been more punitive. They agreed that they had received far more letters complaining about noisy neighbours than they had about the Scott inquiry. Labour said the £40 fine would not be a strong enough deterrant for many inconsiderate neighbours.

Harry Greenway, the Tory backbencher who introduced the Bill, said it was not a killjoy measure and people could still hold parties, they would just have to be more restrained. Mr Greenway, MP for Ealing North, said excessive noise caused extreme stress and suffering. It could drive some people insane and others to murder.

Mr Greenway said complaints had more than trebled between 1983 and 1993, largely due to changing music tastes. He said £40 should be a starting point with a fine of at least £100 once the system was established.

Lady Olga Maitland (C, Sutton and Cheam) one of the leading campaigners for change, said there were 112,000 recorded complaints of excess noise last year and "many, many more" cases where complaints were not made.

Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs said the Bill could have gone much further. Tom Cox (Lab, Tooting) said the Bill dealt with noise only between 11pm and 7am and he called for a loud music curfew between 10pm and 7am.

Warren Hawksley (C, Halesowen and Stourbridge) said more than 20 people had died as a result of noise disputes with neighbours in the past two years. "Apart from the damage to people's health through acute stress and being deprived of their sleep, noise pollution from neighbours regrettably leads to violence on very many occasions," he said.

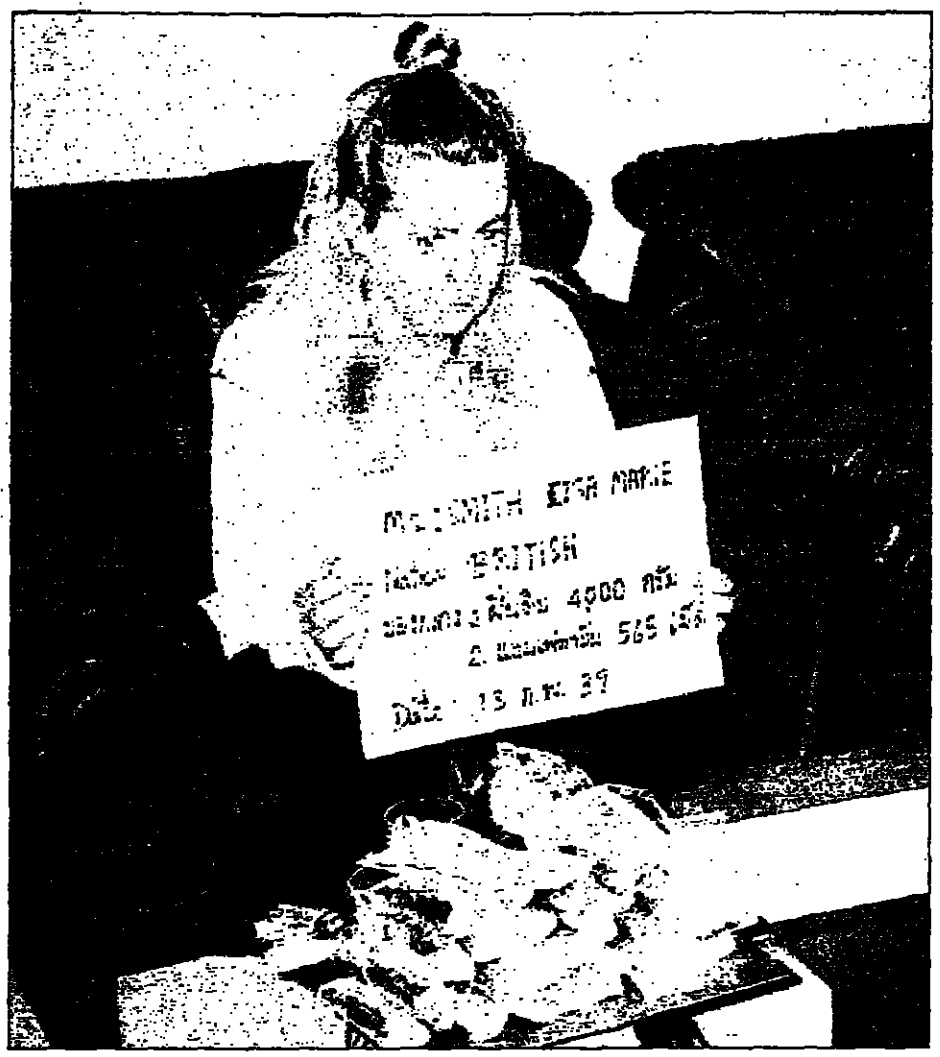
Andrew Hargreaves (C, Birmingham Hall Green) admitted that he had once been issued with a statutory nuisance order after an alarm had gone off in his home while he was away. He supported the Bill and said that it should include noise emanating from cars.

Patrols monitor front line

THERE were 131,153 complaints about domestic noise logged by environmental health officers in 1993-94, equivalent to 3,468 noisy neighbours for every million households. However, there were only 500 prosecutions and 400 convictions. The Bill will make it easier to penalise the noisy.

One hundred and eighty local authorities have already set up out-of-hours complaints services, including 86 that run round the clock. Westminster in London spends £800,000 a year on its service and prosecutes about one noisy household a week.

According to John Connell of the Noise Abatement Society, the life of a noise patrolman is a dangerous one. "There is a serious risk of violence," he said. "They have been held hostage and threatened with death. One had his nose cut off. They are dedicated frontline troops." Westminster has bought anti-stab jackets for its patrols.



Lisa Smith, 20, the British woman held for opium smuggling, pictured in Bangkok yesterday. She is now thought to have been carrying hashish, a lesser offence

Mountain fans meet for social climbing

By Robin Young

CLIMBING enthusiasts will converge today for mountaineering's first summit conference in Britain, to be held at sea level in Llandudno, North Wales.

The British Mountain Conference is designed to rival such events in North America and Italy. The star speaker for the 1,500 delegates is a Slovenian climber who has never before visited Britain.

Silvo Karo is the only man to have climbed two separate routes up Cerro Torre in Patagonia, which many count as the most difficult mountain in the world. Jim Perrin, the conference organiser, said yesterday: "He has a stratospheric reputation."

Among the other speakers are Doug Scott, the first Briton to climb Everest, and the Australian Greg Child, who is to receive an award for his writing on climbing. A "downside" award is to be made to a company accused of "abusing climbing skills" by helping to clear protesters from trees on the route of the Newbury bypass.

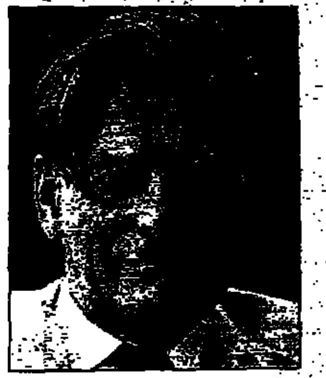
Irishman makes light of Einstein

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

AN IRISH engineer has set out to show that Einstein got it wrong when he devised the theory of relativity. Dr Al Kelly, former director of generation for the Irish electricity board, believes early experiments show flaws in Einstein's claim that the speed of light is fixed.

In a lecture at Trinity College, Dublin, on Thursday night, Dr Kelly cited experiments conducted by a French physicist called Sagnac in 1914, which showed that the time taken by light to complete a circuit when mounted on a spinning disc differed according to whether it went with or against the direction of spin.

Yet observations show that the speed of light is unaffected by the speed of the Earth's orbit around the Sun, when by analogy with the rotating disc, it should be affected by the Earth's rotation, westward-travelling light moving faster than light from the east.



Kelly: claims theory of relativity is flawed

An experiment conducted in 1925 by Albert Michelson, who first measured the speed of light, confirms that this is so, Dr Kelly says.

Sir Arnold Wolfendale, of Durham University, a former Astronomer Royal, said experiments like these were extremely difficult to do. "You have to be very careful and you can't demolish a theory like Einstein's on the basis of crummy experiments."

Sir Arnold said particle accelerators around the world were proof of the truth of relativity. As the particles are accelerated to close to the speed of light, their mass increases, as Einstein predicted, and their lifetime is extended by the effect of time running more slowly.

"Einstein wasn't necessarily right in every last particular but I can't believe that any major divergence wouldn't have been picked up long ago by the accelerators," he said.

Dr Kelly was unabashed. "Engineers don't give up," he said. "They reckon one and one make two. I know a clergyman who says he preaches mysteries he doesn't understand, and I think the physicists are doing the same."

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'NHS let us down in time of need'

Cancer unit stops treating terminally ill to save money

By Jeremy Laurance, health correspondent

A CANCER centre is turning away terminally ill patients and concentrating on those it has some chance of curing because it is short of money. At least 40 patients a week are being refused radiotherapy or chemotherapy at the Bristol oncology centre, which is part of Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Dr Victor Barley, the centre's clinical director, described the situation as "tragic and frustrating". He said yesterday: "We are unable to treat a number of patients, mainly those in pain with widespread cancer who would normally benefit from radiotherapy or chemotherapy. Instead, their GPs have to give them morphine at home, which we believe gives patients a poorer quality of life.

"We are not stopping treatment altogether. We are giving priority to those who need treatment urgently and where a cure is possible." Dr Barley said the restriction had been in place for a fortnight.

One of those refused admission is Janet Ricketts, 37, who has suffered a recurrence of ovarian cancer. Mrs Ricketts's GP, Dr. Mervyn McGowan, said he had visited her at home and found her doubled up on the floor in her mother's arms.

"She was in dreadful pain despite the morphine I had given her. She is a lady who has coped with an incredible amount in her life. I felt she needed to be admitted as an emergency to an oncology bed and the consultant I telephoned agreed but he said he hadn't got a bed.

"I said it was crazy. She is the most uncomplaining lady I know and she wasn't going to make a fuss but I was indignant. I am a placid person but this got to me and I felt I couldn't tolerate it."

Barley: described the situation as "tragic"

Mrs Ricketts's mother, Margery Peters, 65, said: "As a carer, and as a mother, I feel very angry. I also feel that the NHS has let us down at our time of need. The message sent out is that if you fall ill at the end of the financial year you just don't get the treatment you need."

Dr Barley said Mrs Ricketts should have been admitted. "It would have been more satisfactory for her to come in and her pain would have been more quickly dealt with."

He said the centre was treating 25 per cent more patients than a year ago, when it treated 1,300 in-patients and 2,400 day cases, and was facing a shortfall of £500,000. A ward had been closed, one of five linear accelerators (radiotherapy machines) taken out of service and staff posts left unfilled to cut spending. He said the increase in referrals was the result of the rising incidence of cancer in the ageing population, advances allowing more patients to be treated and a trend for general surgeons to refer more patients to specialist units.

"This is not a sudden problem. It has been happening for years in every oncology unit in the country," Dr Barley said.

Pamela Charlwood, chief executive of Avon District Health Authority, said it had increased its £4.7 million allocation to the centre by £400,000 this year and could afford no more.

"This is a problem created by the potential of the NHS to do so much more for so many people. The doctors are having to restrict eligibility for treatment to those for whom they can do most. That means palliative care has to be provided in the community.

"No one believes it is an ideal situation but we do not have unlimited funds. The staff must make very difficult judgments and we will support them."

Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, blamed the infirmary, which houses the centre, for letting the situation build up. "I am not happy the hospital are doing all they can," she said.

Last night Alan Langlands, NHS chief executive, said that hospitals were putting too much emphasis on treating more patients and not enough on the quality of care. He told the BBC's *Look North* programme: "We may well have reached a point where we need to think about the qualitative aspects of care and be less concerned about always increasing throughput in hospitals. That means the drive for efficiency in resources might have gone a bit far."

JAMES MORGAN

Virginia Bottomley leaving the High Court after giving evidence in a libel case

Bottomley denies framing doctor over man's death

By Michael Horsnell

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY told a libel jury yesterday it was "complete nonsense" to suggest she had framed a consultant over a patient's death to deflect attention from a shortage of hospital beds.

The former Health Secretary was called to give evidence at the High Court on behalf of Mirror Group Newspapers, which is fighting an action brought by Anthony Percy, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, southeast London. Mrs Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, denied that she tried to make a "sacrificial lamb" of Mr Percy, who was called "Dr Dolittle" in the *Daily Mirror* after he failed to attend a man with brain injuries who was then flown 200 miles for treatment.

Mrs Bottomley also denied that she called in a memo for his role in the affair to be "flagged up". During 2½ hours in the witness box, she told the court she had not exercised any influence on what should go into a report on the incident, or had anything to do with the decision to censure him.

A memo from her private secretary responding to the report asked "what about the consultant refusing to appear?", but that simply reflected her concern about publicly mentioning Mr Percy's role unless it had been substantiated or clarified.

Mr Percy, 55, from Bickley, southeast London, claims the *Daily Mirror* suggested he was guilty of gross dereliction of duty, bore some responsibility for the death of Malcolm Murray, 45, and should be suspended. Mr Murray died at Leeds General Infirmary last March after being flown from Queen Mary's when a junior doctor could find no neurosurgical intensive care bed for him in the South East.

The newspaper, which denies libel, says its story was an accurate account of a report of the South Thames regional health authority, which censured Mr Percy. The case continues on Monday.

Scots drop table of hospital fatalities

By A Staff Reporter

THE Government published survival figures yesterday for patients treated for heart attacks and strokes in Scottish hospitals instead of the so-called death league tables.

The statistics released by the Scottish Office record the number of patients who were alive 30 days after receiving emergency treatment in particular hospitals. The first such report, published in December 1994, compared the number of people who had not survived.

Dr Robert Kendell, Scotland's Chief Medical Officer, said they had decided to change the emphasis. "Survival is really what matters. It seemed more logical," he said.

Scottish health chiefs emphasised that the figures were intended for doctors and clinicians to compare performance of hospitals and to decide if they had to make changes in their practices.

Hospitals in Edinburgh, Fife and Argyll had a comparatively high percentage of patients in emergency readmissions within a month of being discharged after treatment, the figures show. At Argyll and Bute NHS Trust, 13.89 per cent of patients were back within 28 days between October 1991 and October 1994.

At Fife Healthcare Trust the figure was 13.56 per cent while at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh it was 13.82 per cent. Overall 72,947 patients were taken back to Scottish hospitals within 28 days, 11.13 per cent of the 655,272 who had been treated in an adult medical specialty.

Bellshill and Monklands NHS Trust Hospitals in Lanarkshire had the highest proportion of deaths within 30 days of admission for heart attacks. The survival rate was 74.38 per cent, compared with the Scottish average of 79.84 per cent.

The highest survival rate was at Borders General Hospital NHS Trust, at 84.31 per cent, followed by Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, with 83.85 per cent.

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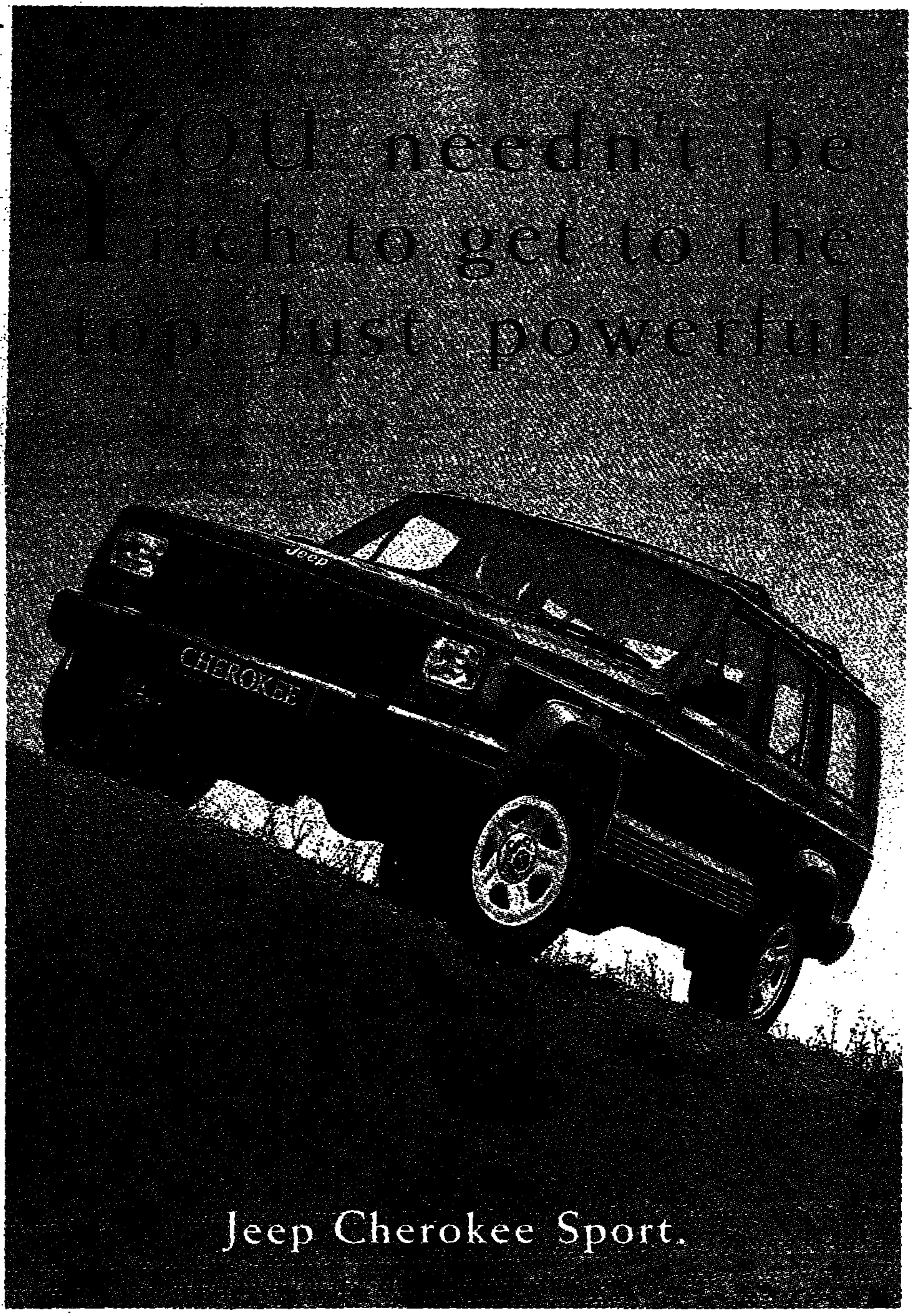

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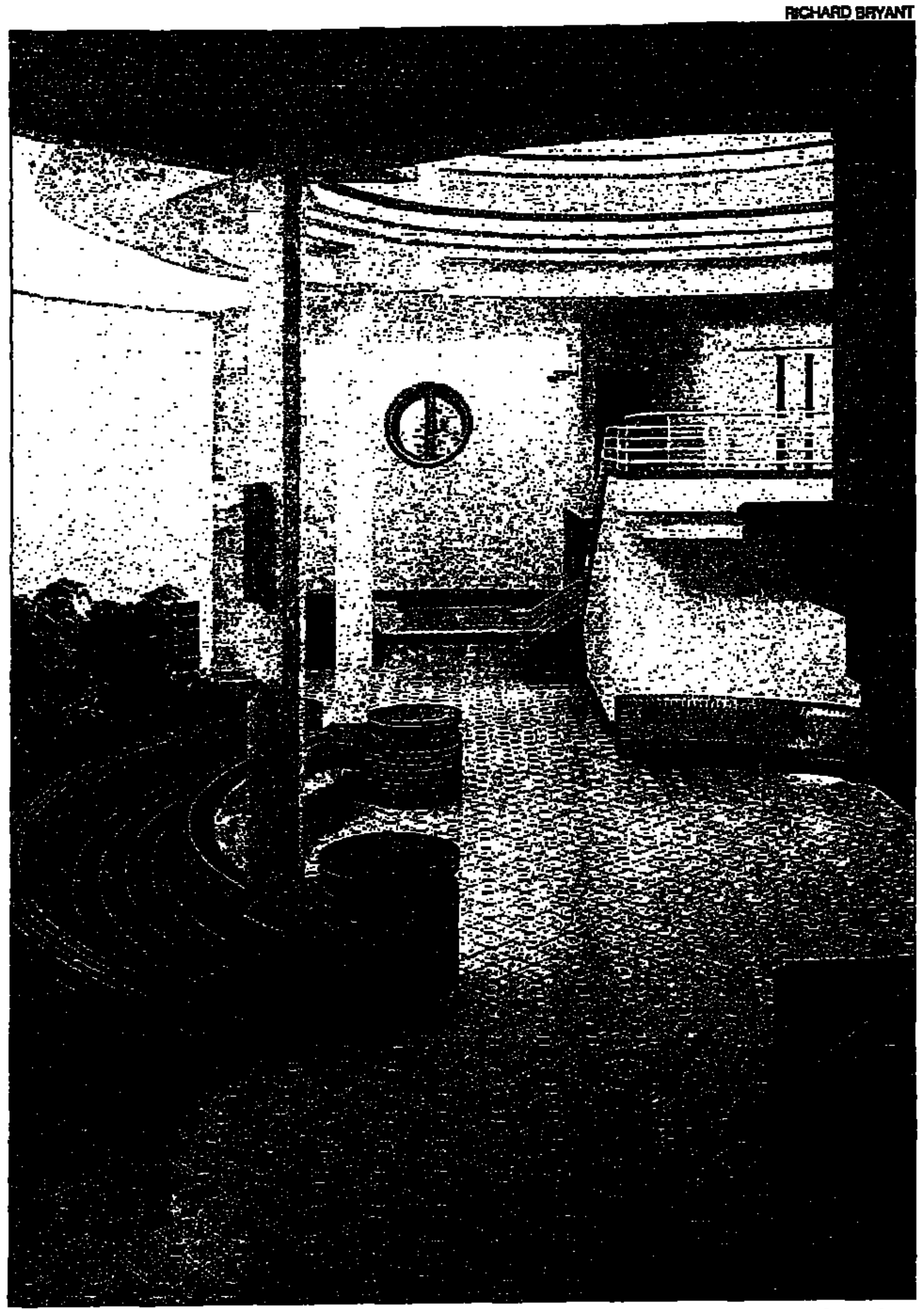
هكذا فن الرحل

'It will be a tragedy if this great design is marred by infill or tinkering of any kind'

RICHARD BRYANT



The acclaimed Truro courts, opened eight years ago. The buildling's original architects say an extension will make the most admired feature dark and dingy

Award-winning architects attack changes in court

By Marcus Binney and Stephen Farrell

THE Lord Chancellor's Department has outraged the British architectural establishment by altering one award-winning court building and stripping another of elaborate Victorian features.

The alterations to Truro Crown Courts, opened eight years ago and awarded a succession of prizes, are being made without reference to the original architects and will, they claim, ruin the building's most admired feature.

In London the stripping of the ornate interior and central oak staircase from the former Knightsbridge Crown Court, built in 1894 as the Hans Crescent Hotel, has left the building an empty shell.

The architects of the Truro Courts, Evans and Shalev, won awards for their work from the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Civic Trust, the Royal Fine Art Commission, the Institute of Structural Engineers and the Concrete Society. Now a first-floor extension is being thrust into the high space linking two rotundas, which bring light to the main concourse.

Eldred Evans, one of the partners, said: "It literally ruins the building's interior. We have happily done modifications at Truro before, but this time they have not consulted us. The changes make the centre of the courts dark and dingy." David Shalev added: "It is like putting a mezzanine in a cathedral."

The Lord Chancellor's Department says the alterations are necessary because the workload of the courts has increased. The first-floor extension will provide judges' chambers to deal with small claims and family cases.

Lord St John of Fawsley, chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, said yesterday: "The Truro courts have raised the standard of court architecture throughout the country. It will be a tragedy if this great design is marred by infill or tinkering of any kind."

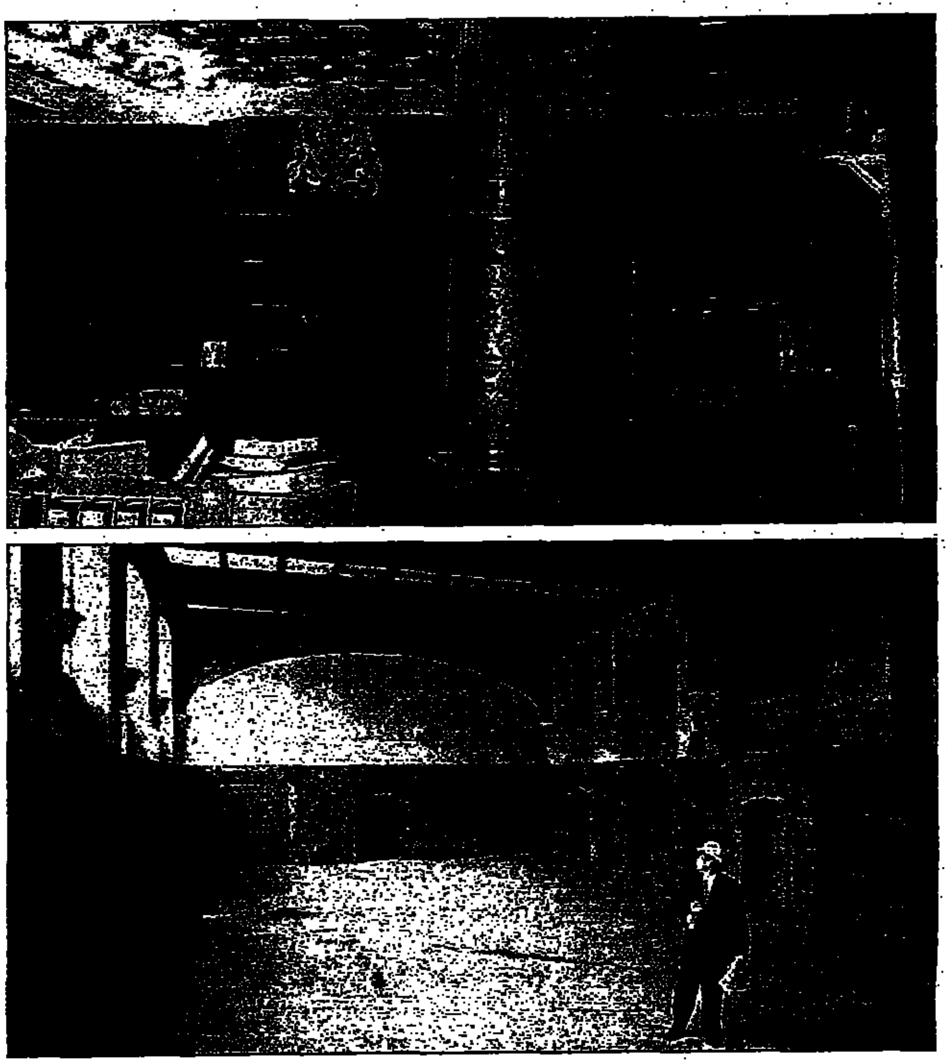
Owen Luder, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said: "The Truro court is a beacon of quality among buildings that are more often the object of ridicule than admiration."

Paul Monaghan, architect to the Lord Chancellor's Department, said: "These rate as minor works with a value of £100,000. Our agents, Torby Project Management, are building surveyors, not architects, but in my view their approach and detailing is particularly sensitive."

The former Knightsbridge Crown Court was bought by Harrods for £25 million in December, after the interior had been removed. Mohamed Al Fayed, the store's chairman, accused the civil servants responsible of philistinism. "It is nothing less than a scandal that the splendid joinery of this handsome interior can be destroyed without any possible sanction," he said.

Richard Holder, senior architectural adviser to the Victorian Society, said last night: "The only reason for taking out the roof beams would be to convert a room into two floors, but to take them out and just leave it like that is tragic."

Emma Phillips, Secretary of Save Britain's Heritage, said the destruction was unnecessary and no thought had been given to preservation. "This building was obviously a very elaborate example of sumptuous late Victorian craftsmanship," she said.



The former Knightsbridge Crown Court before and after its interior was stripped out, with the loss of ornate Victorian beams, panelling, and central oak staircase

Schoolboy detained for fatal stabbing

Mark McNeil, 15, who stabbed another boy to death in a "final showdown", was ordered to be detained for six years by the Old Bailey. McNeil, of Harrow, north London, could have avoided a fight with Mark Osbourne, 16, last August but could not resist a challenge when other boys called him "chicken". He was cleared of murder but found guilty of manslaughter.

£96,000 award

Nadine Challinor, 31, whose career with Greater Manchester Police was destroyed when a car thief ran her down, was awarded £96,500 damages in the High Court in Manchester. She suffered back, arm and neck injuries in the incident.

Appeal fails

The Court of Appeal upheld the conviction of two brothers for the murder of their sister and her lover. Abdul Haq, 30, and Mohammed Saleem, 37, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, were jailed for life in 1991. The victims' bodies have never been found.

Bathtime death

Akeem Mahmood, aged 18 months, died from burns after jumping into a scalding bath while his mother's back was turned. The coroner at Abergavenny, Gwent, absolved his mother Laila, 20, of Newport, Gwent, of any blame for the accident.

Rare eagle stolen

One of only eight Bonelli's hunting eagles in Britain has been stolen. Andrew White, 25, a falconer from Bulwell, Nottingham, is offering a reward for the return of Bonnie, 16, which is worth £5,000. The bird was taken from an aviary at his house.

On safe lines

Lone passengers arriving at Potters Bar railway station, Hertfordshire, can call on security guards to see them safely to their car or taxi in a scheme sponsored by an Albany Life Insurance and launched by John Watts, the Transport Minister.

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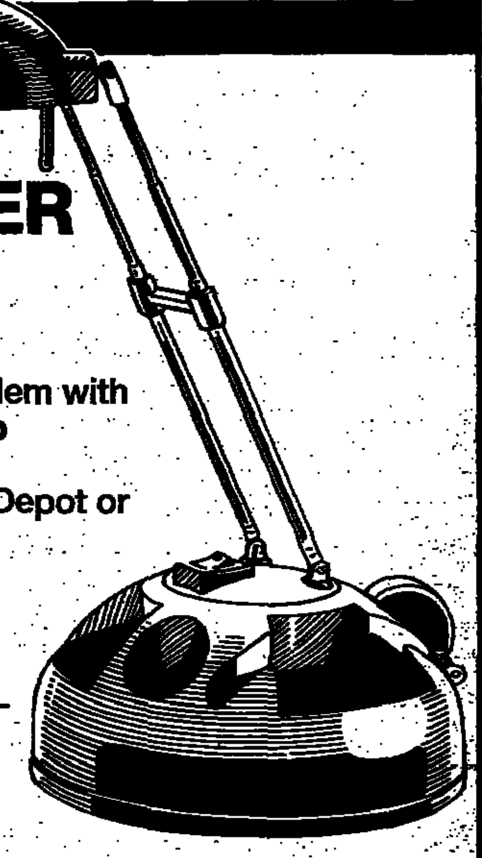

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هكذا من الأصل

South West faces more standpipes

Drought region's precious water washed out to sea

By Nick Nuttall and Alasdair Murray

SOUTH WEST WATER has lost hundreds of millions of gallons of water from a reservoir serving an area still affected by drought.

The error by a company widely criticised for its service leaves customers in Devon and Cornwall facing a summer of even tougher restrictions despite paying the highest average charge, at £309 a year, in the country.

South West Water, many of whose 1.5 million customers have endured supply restrictions for months, inadvertently sent about 1,000 million gallons (or 5,000 meggalitres) from the Roadford Reservoir swilling down the Wolf and Tamar and out to sea. The loss was equivalent to about 50 days' supply to Plymouth and south Devon.

Even by the dismal standards of the water industry, South West Water has been exceptionally accident prone. The company has been regularly criticised for its poor water quality and for supply shortages that affected half of its 1.6 million customers last summer. In August 100,000 customers in Devon were forced to boil their water after a stomach bug outbreak.

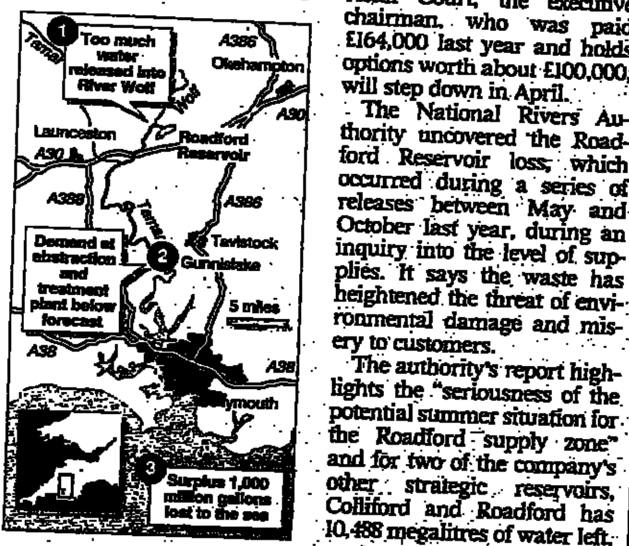
The public outcry eventually proved too much for the company's board, and South West recently announced a clean sweep of its senior maangement. Bill Fraser, the the managing director, whose recent pay increase from £157,000 to £217,000 a year was heavily criticised by shareholders, is retiring at the end of this month. He holds options worth about £120,000. Keith Court, the executive chairman, who was paid £164,000 last year and holds options worth about £100,000, will step down in April.

The National Rivers Authority uncovered the Roadford Reservoir loss, which occurred during a series of releases between May and October last year, during an inquiry into the level of supplies. It says the waste has heightened the threat of environmental damage and misery to customers.

The authority's report highlights the "seriousness of the potential summer situation for the Roadford supply zone" and for two of the company's other strategic reservoirs, Colliford and Roadford has 10,488 megalitres of water left, about a third of its capacity. The NRA forecast that "the source is at risk under all rainfall scenarios".

The extra releases are being blamed on poor forecasting by the company of water demand at the height of last summer's drought. South West, in common with all water companies, discharges water from reservoirs down rivers to water treatment works.

Bob Baty, South West Water's engineering and scientific director, said yesterday that predicting customer demand three days in advance was a tortuous business. "We have to make releases in anticipation of the highest level of demand. If we reduced the releases there is a serious risk of breaching our abstraction licences and damaging the environment," he said.


1 Too much water released into River Wolf
Tamar
Wolf
A386
Okehampton
A30
Launceston
A30
Roadford Reservoir
A388
Tamar
A386
Tavistock
2 Demand at abstraction and treatment plant below forecast
Gunnislake
5 miles
A38
A38
Plymouth
3 Surplus 1,000 million gallons lost to the sea

Yorkshire puts up charges by 5.6%

YORKSHIRE WATER, whose reaction to the drought has been widely criticised, came under attack again yesterday after it announced it was raising bills by almost twice the rate of inflation (Nick Nuttall writes).

The company, which is still operating drought restrictions in and around Bradford and has had to take water to some homes by tanker, said it was raising charges by 5.6 per cent. It pointed out that the rise was in line with limits set by the Office of Water Services last April. The limit for five years was set at inflation plus 2.5 per cent. With inflation at 3.1 per cent, the increase is the maximum allowed. The company denied that the price rise was to cover drought-related expenses.

The decision dismayed business people and consumer groups. David Wilkinson, head of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said yesterday: "We have had a disastrous summer in which everyone has been urged to reduce consumption and yet there are still restrictions. To impose a price hike roughly twice the rate of inflation is not only going to impose a heavy financial cost on businesses but will cause their attitude to Yorkshire Water to harden."

Penny Ward, of the pressure group Water Watch, said the rise was "an absolute disgrace", given that the service had been reduced.

Eric Simms inspects his handiwork as traffic thunders along the A1 behind him

Naturalist verges on the A1 for inspiration

A RETIRED television producer has won a conservation award for turning the verges of a busy dual carriageway into a nature reserve.

Eric Simms, 74, noticed the unusual flora and fauna alongside the A1 in Lincolnshire when he drove past while producing a nature series for the BBC in 1979. He stopped to have a look and started a 17-year love affair with the roadside.

The South Witham Nature Reserve comprises two kilometres of verges and banks alongside the A1, a road underneath it and a slip-road off to the village.

When Mr Simms retired he moved to South Witham to devote more time to the reserve. His award for environmental achievement comes from the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservancy.

Mr Simms believes the busy road helps the flowers. "The wind from the lorries passing at high speed blows the seeds around and the flowers are able to spread rapidly," he said. "It's remarkable really that the fumes don't do any harm."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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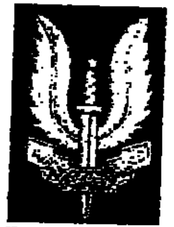

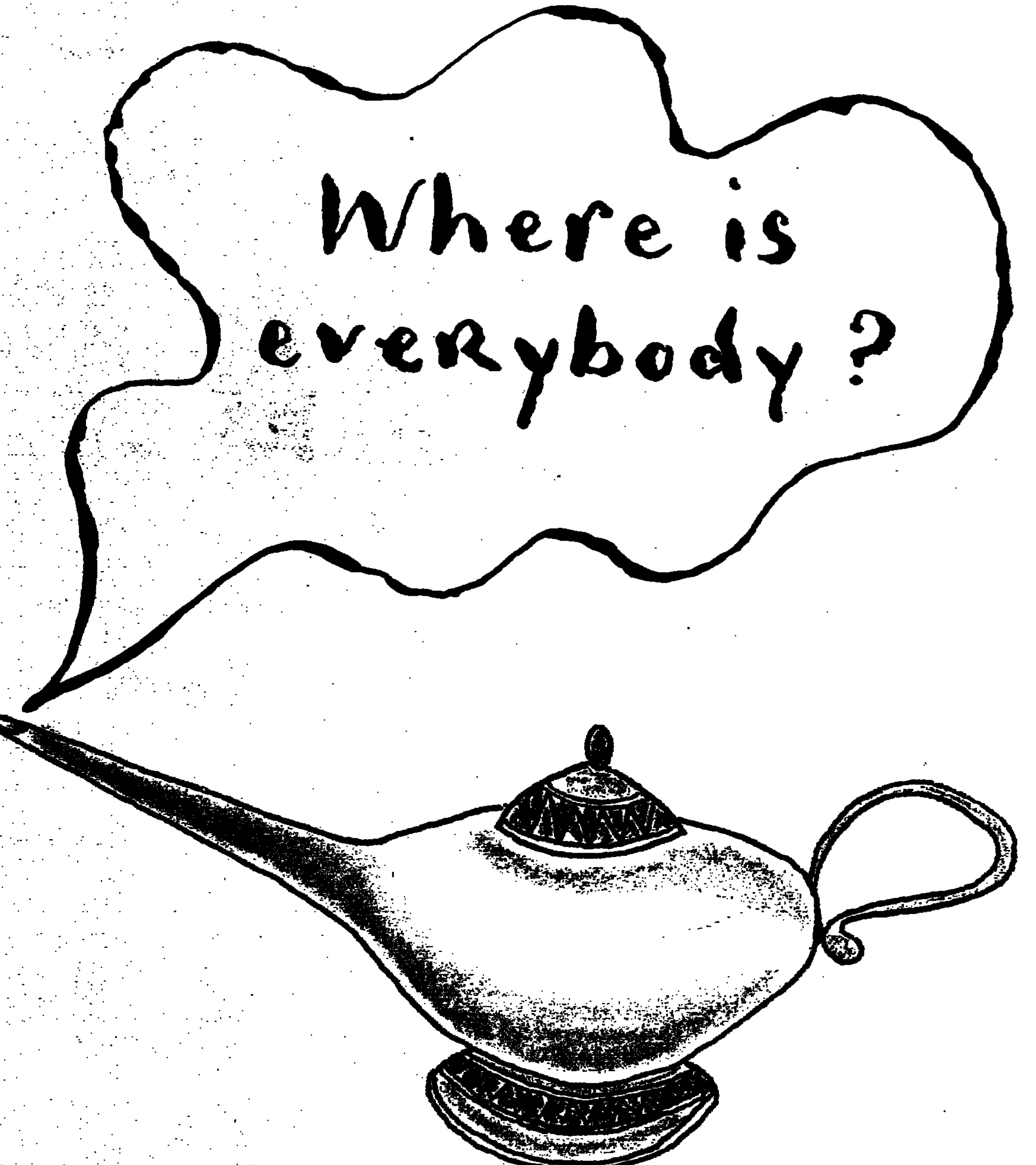
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Labour and Liberal Democrats call for Waldegrave and Lyell to resign

Government accused of hiding Scott criticisms

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats joined forces yesterday to demand that William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell resign in the wake of the Scott report.

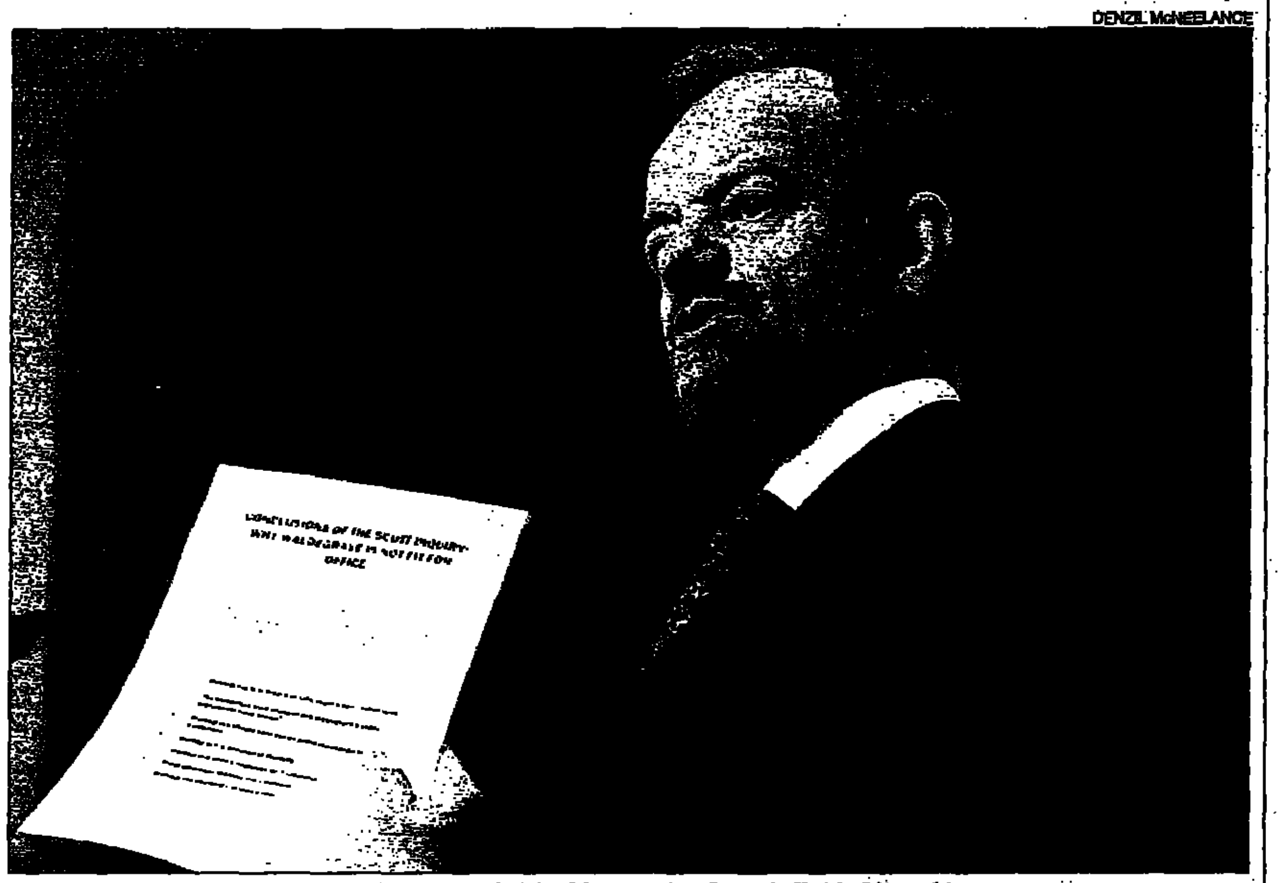
Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, and Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, attempting to mobilise support from potential Tory rebels as well as the public, held a joint press conference at which they accused the Government of lying about the Scott report to hide its more damaging findings.

In a sign that Labour and the Liberal Democrats might co-operate more closely as the general election approaches, the two MPs also called for reforms to improve parliamentary accountability, including a Freedom of Information Act.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, made clear that the Government had little intention of acting on many central criticisms in Sir Richard Scott's report. One recommendation was that public interest immunity certificates not be used in criminal cases. At his press conference yesterday, Mr Lang said other judges disagreed with Sir Richard on this. The certificates had been used before and would continue to be used.

Mr Lang disagreed with Sir Richard's assertion that guidelines on arms sales to Iraq had been changed. Denying that government was cloaked in secrecy, he said: "Our objective is to be as open as possible."

But Mr Cook was determined not to let Sir Richard's criticisms be spirited away by the Tory public relations machine or Mr Lang. Labour is furious that when the Scott report was published, on Thursday, the press and Tory MPs were given "selective and misleading" papers on it containing only the Tories' defence. Ann Taylor, shadow Leader of the House, is writing to all Tory MPs with Labour documents on the report to balance the crib-sheets supplied by the Government.


DENZIL McNEELANCE

Robin Cook at the press conference he held with Menzies Campbell, his Liberal Democrat counterpart

Mr Cook said the two parties were pursuing a combined attack, on parliamentary grounds, rather than taking a partisan approach. The issues went to the heart of the constitution. The report had provoked a "parliamentary crisis" that could be cleared only by ministerial resignations.

Mr Cook said Mr Waldegrave had misled MPs 30 to 40 times and had been criticised between 20 and 30 times by Sir Richard. "If he does not resign, no minister of this Government will be believed again," Mr Cook said.

Mr Campbell said Mr Waldegrave was one of the ministers responsible for a decision that had led to the principle of ministerial accountability being "systematically ignored." He added: "It is not possible to think of any other sphere in which an individual could be so criticised and still retain his job."

Mr Cook said Sir Nicholas could not now remain in office. The report found that the Attorney-General's advice to ministers that they had to sign public interest immunity certificates "had no legal foundation." He was found to be "personally" at fault over failing to ensure that the Matrix Churchill trial judge was informed of Michael Heseltine's reluctance to sign a certificate.

Mr Cook also criticised the decision of ministers that the debate, on February 26, would be on an adjournment motion, so that Opposition parties would be unable to table an amendment, such as one calling for resignations.

Vernon Bogdanor, page 22
Leading article and Letters, page 23

Instant reaction cannot dispel every shadow

THE Government has no shortage of chutzpah. John Major led a chorus of gleeful senior ministers yesterday claiming victory, or any rate escape, in the Scott affair. They may be right, thanks, paradoxically, to Sir Richard Scott himself. Before his report was published, several Tories argued that his inquiry had been unfair to witnesses. In the event, Sir Richard was painfully fair and balanced, about motives if not actions, so there is something in the report for everyone.

Ministers could justify their "not guilty" claims by putting the charges against them in the most extreme terms, and then saying they had, in Mr Major's words, been "comprehensively" dismissed by Scott. The Tories have argued that the inquiry was "about whether innocent men were going to be sent to jail by conspiracy and whether Saddam Hussein was being armed by the British Government".

Expressed in these oversimplified terms, admittedly sometimes used by Labour spokesmen, the report clears ministers. And, having set the debate in these false terms, the Government then brushes aside the rest of the report. Shortcomings and mistakes are admitted and will be considered very carefully by the Government, but the implication is that they are largely technical and boring, and of no real interest to anyone. Differences about the use of immunity certificates are dismissed as merely an argument between lawyers.

As a propaganda exercise, that has so far been successful,

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

not least because the Government had the initiative and has been able to mount a defence. But it fails to answer questions posed by the report. From the start, the inquiry has concerned ministerial accountability to Parliament and the conduct of the Matrix Churchill trial. The report contains many highly critical passages about both, as Robin Cook and Menzies Campbell pointed out yesterday. There are numerous sections casting doubt on the competence, if not the good faith, of ministers and civil servants. The Labour and Liberal Democrat case is that ministerial responsibility does not just rest on good intentions but also relates to conduct in office.

Even if the more lurid and extreme charges are dismissed, there are still substantial points to be answered, not only on the details of the cases but also on ministers' relations with Parliament. The new Commons Public Service Committee could make a start by summoning the two key ministers and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, before the full debate on the report on Monday week.

Mr Cook and Mr Campbell have landed several blows, but none so far is likely to achieve a knockout. Their problem is that public, or rather press, attention to the Scott affair is likely to be limited, and the political agenda could soon move on.

PETER RIDDELL

MPs fail to resist TV over-exposure

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

POLITICIANS will prove soon that they are prepared to do almost anything to appear on television, including being interviewed on the lavatory.

A new Channel 4 comedy show next Friday has asked backbenchers to perform outlandish stunts. Many have complied, but there are some limits beyond which even media-mouths fear to go.

Jerry Hayes, who has already dressed up as a French maid to prove his worthiness as Tory MP for Harlow, has agreed to wear a bear costume, but he drew the line at appearing as an 8ft penis, saying: "I don't mind putting a costume on, but that would be a perfect tabloid picture."

Two other Tory MPs, David Martin and David Amess, submit to gruelling tests for the *Mark Thomas Comedy Product*. They have their backsides photographed by a fluffy bear and play noughts and crosses and draw their constituencies on a woman's stomach. They also pretend to be ancient rock stars strumming guitars and crooning.

Opposition MPs are even less camera-shy. George Galloway, Labour MP for Hillhead, is interviewed sitting on the lavatory at his home. But although Mr Galloway proves that he thinks he is young at heart, he cannot answer basic questions about the bands Take That and Pulp.

The Liberal Democrat Simon Hughes turns his living-room into a disco complete with dry ice and displays his dancing skills. He then shows the film crew his underwear drawer and offers a pair of boxer shorts for charity.

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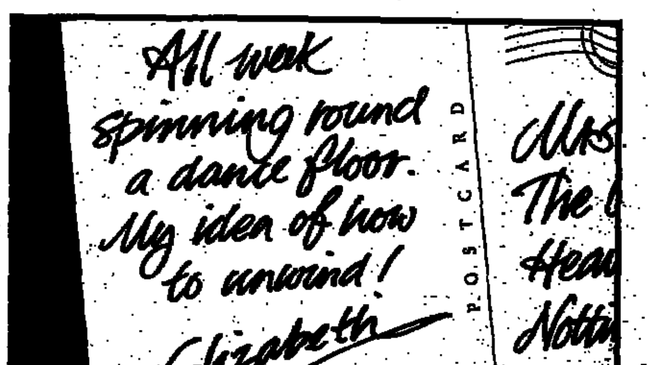
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D20H1

Preachers 'must give meaning to world'

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

PREACHERS must rediscover the Bible's "good promise" to give meaning to a spiritually lost world, a theologian says. "The 20th-century problem is neither death nor guilt, but meaninglessness," David Buttrick, a professor of homiletics, writes in a paper published by the College of Preachers.

Professor Buttrick, whose paper coincides with the college's launch of the second Preacher of the Year award, sponsored by *The Times*, predicts that preaching will become more evangelical and less biblical. "People these days wander the world without a clue. They live in a series of short-term purposes — 'I will go to school', 'I will buy a car' — but people have no overall theological vision by which to live."

Professor Buttrick says: "We live after Freud, and what grandmother attributed to God is now 'anxiety hysteria'. In the 20th century, the Church handed over the province of nature to the scientist and the province of the heart to psychiatry."

Preachers turned to history and the Bible instead. "We compressed Christian faith into not much more than 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so'. Our sermons tend to speak of a once-upon-a-time, past-tense God," Professor Buttrick, from Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, says.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 3

Shamed don must pay back £160,000 for stolen books

By Tim Jones

A DON jailed for two years for stealing rare books from college libraries to settle mortgage debts was ordered to pay £160,000 in compensation yesterday. Most of the money is expected to be raised from the sale of his house.

Dr Simon Heighes, a presenter of Radio 3's *Composer of the Week* programme, was a trusted visitor at university libraries holding some of Britain's rarest books. He lectured at The Queen's College, Oxford, is an authority on baroque music and was regarded as a respectable academic and musical scholar.

However, he abused his position to loot libraries of 78 antique treasures and sold some of them for a total of £140,000. The most valuable work was a 1687 first edition of Sir Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica*, alone worth £67,500. It had been kept in Christ Church library for more than 300 years. Heighes sold the book for £65,500.

Yesterday, as the compensation orders were made at Northampton Crown Court, there was confusion over the location of the book. The court was told that it was back with an Oxford bookshop, which had bought it in good faith from him. But a spokesman for Blackwell's bookshop said it was not with them and was with the person they had sold it to, or another buyer.

Heighes, of Oxford, was sentenced to two years' jail in December after admitting six counts of theft, five of obtaining property by deception and one of attempted deception. Another 130 offences were taken into consideration.

When he was sentenced, Judge Francis Allen told Heighes: "Many people respected you in academic, broadcasting and classical music circles but you grossly abused that trust. You have not simply been a thief, you have used your position of esteem and trust to perpetrate carefully planned thefts of rare and valuable books."

Oxford Crown Court had heard that Heighes was racked by low self-esteem after separating from his partner. He began by stealing musical manuscripts from the library at Trinity College, London, and then took volumes from Oxford libraries at Christ Church, The Queen's and Trinity. Heighes made repeated sales trips to Sotheby's, London, and to Blackwell's, claiming the stolen works came from his grandfather's collection.

When police raided his address they found eight rare books in a suitcase under his bed. Seven of them had come from Christ Church, the other was from The Queen's College, Oxford.

Yesterday Judge Allen, sitting this time at Northampton, ordered Heighes to pay compensation of £80,245 to Blackwell's, £52,940 to Sotheby's, £20,895 to Christ Church, £5,200 to Trinity Music College and £1,350 to The Queen's College.

Heighes: abused trust of university libraries

Nigel Daly, for the prosecution, said Heighes had £198,687 available from the sale of his house and an inheritance from his grandfather.

He said: "If he pays this figure of compensation, he will not have made a profit from his offending. In fact he will have lost."

In addition to the *Principia*, other missing works included an £8,000 volume of Newton's *Opticks* (1704), believed now to be somewhere in Germany, a £3,200 volume by the 17th-century composer Frescobaldi, last traced to a dealer in Rome, and a £19,000 astrological text by Edmond Halley, *Catalogus Stellarum Australium* (1679), last traced to a dealer in London.

After the don's arrest in May last year, detectives and a team of antiquarian book experts followed a trail from Britain to America, Germany and Italy to try to trace the works. They found all but "minor" books, and have appealed to dealers and collectors to return them.

After the thefts, Christ Church reviewed security measures and the Bodleian Library is considering introducing electronic book tagging to prevent similar offences.

Making the order for compensation, Judge Allen said he was pleased to hear the Newton book had been recovered. He said: "Nothing else approached that in individual value or rarity."

But Blackwell's were insistent the book was *not* with them. A spokesman said: "I understand it has been traced, but I do not know where it is."

Credo

Escape a mess of pottage on wobbly ladder of faith

Barry Overend

POTTAGE. Now there's a satisfying word. I'm not sure what it means exactly. The dictionary suggests both soup and stew, as if there were no difference. Perhaps only a connoisseur, like Esau, could spot the real thing.

He was so partial to pottage that he exchanged his birthright for a bowlful. Jacob, his scheming brother, was only too pleased to act as waiter. By the time Esau had had second thoughts about the bargain, Jacob had already deceived their elderly and blind father into bestowing on him the blessing rightly due to the elder son. Esau's appetite was now whetted more for revenge than for pottage. Jacob had to flee for his life.

Forced to rough it, Jacob dossed down at the roadside. There he dreamt of a ladder stretching from Earth to Heaven. The angels of God were going up and down. He took it as a sign that the spot where he was lying was not such a God-forsaken place: "Truly the Lord is in this place and I never knew it!" Jacob marked the site with a holy stone to show that at that place Heaven and Earth were joined.

It is the precise nature of that link which strikes me as being particularly significant. Heaven and Earth were joined by nothing more substantial than a ladder. I was therefore dismayed to discover that in one children's version of the Bible, Jacob's ladder had become a "stairway". Something vital had been lost from the story. The insecurity of a ladder had been abandoned for the safety of a flight of steps.

A ladder is a basic, utilitarian piece of equipment. You climb it at your peril, in full knowledge of the precariousness of your situation. Hence the phrase "easy as falling off a ladder". Jacob's ladder is symbolic of the kind of risk that the Bible envisages as being unavoidable in a living relationship with God. Many a biblical character could testify to the risky nature of their faith in God.

They were often called to do dangerous and difficult things for which they felt totally inadequate. But when they expressed their reluctance to accept the challenge, they were told not to argue, just to obey. In their heart they knew that God was urging them to take the reckless step of getting on with it. They had no idea what would be the outcome. They could take it in faith only one step at a time. But then, how else can you climb a ladder?

Jacob seems to have interpreted his dream as good news. It imparted the comforting truth that God is nearer to us than we sometimes think, and that there is no outward place, or inward condition, which is as God-forsaken as we imagine. His dream is also a reminder that faith is a precarious business. In my experience, you do not progress by leaps and bounds. It is more of a gradual climb, rung after risky rung. God is not waiting for us at the top of the stairs, but at the top of the ladder.

☐ *The Rev Barry Overend, vicar of St Chad's, Far Headingley, Leeds, is Times Preacher of the Year 1995.*

THE TIMES

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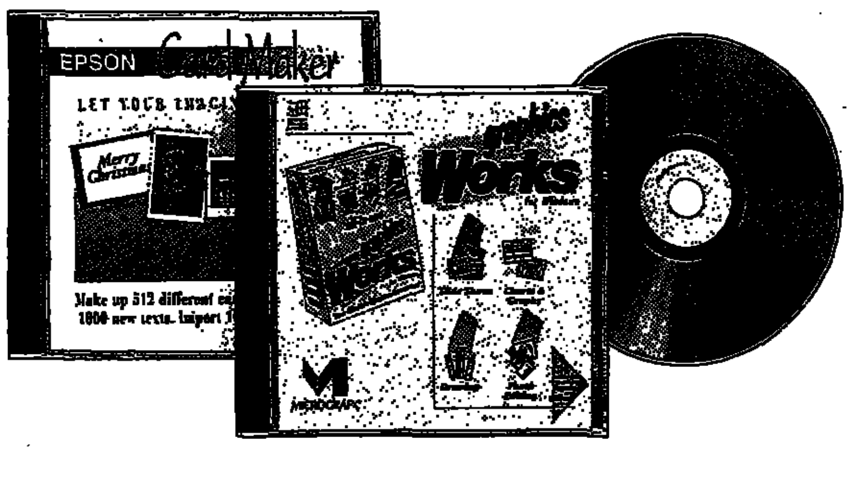

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Socialists join poll rivals in threat to Eta

By Edward Owen
in Madrid and
Our Foreign Staff

SPAIN'S ruling Socialists, facing defeat in the general election on March 3, announced yesterday that the political wing of the Basque Eta guerrilla group might be declared illegal.

The Government, which is trailing the conservative Popular Party in the polls, had announced hours earlier that it was asking prosecutors to file charges against leaders of the Herri Batasuna group for supporting terrorism.

"I think there are legal grounds to act on the basis of collaboration with terrorism," Felipe González, the Prime Minister, told state television.

The Socialist initiative marked the launch of campaigning and came on the heels of proposals by the Popular Party (PP), led by José Maria Aznar, to crack down on Basque separatists who advocate violence. The PP is predicted to achieve its first election victory.

"Eta and its supporters have reason to be worried, because we are going to finish with them," Señor Aznar said as he opened his campaign in the southern port of Cádiz yesterday. He said the PP would ensure that all Eta prisoners complete their full prison terms.

The announcements followed the murder by Eta on Wednesday of Francisco Tomás y Valiente, a widely respected law professor who served for six years as head of Spain's constitutional court.

The killing, the second in less than two weeks, produced widespread public anger. Thousands of students and citizens paused in silent protest on Thursday as the murdered professor was buried, with Señor González and Cabinet ministers in attendance.

PACO TORRENTE

José Maria Aznar, the Spanish conservative leader, who is strongly favoured to win next month's election

Spain's leader in waiting spells out EMU doubts

Spain has overcome Franco's legacy and is ready for a new transition, the man tipped to win next month's election tells ***Charles Bremner***

THE move to monetary union could divide Europe if it is not launched with a consensus of Britain and the four other big EU members, says José Maria Aznar, the centre-right politician who is the strong favourite to become Spain's Prime Minister next month.

Señor Aznar made clear, in an interview with *The Times*, that under his leadership Spain would assert its interests forcefully within the EU and that he would keep an open mind on Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). His stance marks a distinct shift from the Euro-enthusiasm of Felipe González, the Socialist Prime Minister, who took Spain into the EU in 1986.

Señor Aznar's Partido Popular (PP) has raised its lead to ten points over the Socialists in opinion polls ahead of the March 3 election. Although Señor González, weary of power and discredited by scandal in his administration, could scrape back, the big question is whether Señor Aznar will win an outright majority or be forced to seek accommodation with the prickly Catalan and Basque nationalist parties.

With victory in reach, the former tax inspector with a bland style that draws comparisons with John Major is doing nothing to upset voters who have qualms about the return of the Right two decades after the death of Franco.

Although he professes himself a free-marketeer, his plans to tackle Spain's disastrous 23 per cent level of unemployment do not include cutting the welfare system set up by the Socialists or dismantling the rigid labour laws. Señor Aznar, 42, insists his is the "party of the centre". His team, he says, consists of both Christian Democrats and "neo-liberals" like himself. The far Right, used by the Socialists as a bogey, is ancient history, he says. "Spain has overcome its past ... When the previous regime ended, we were all students."

According to the PP's supporters, Spain's "second transition", as they call the anticipated change of government, will mark a coming of age in which it can shed the plumage of fledgeling democracy. The outline of this more self-confident Spain emerges from conversation with Señor Aznar at the PP's offices, a place buzzing with young party workers who could have come from the Clinton campaign of 1992.

While he was speaking, a gunman from Eta, the Basque guerrilla group, murdered an emininent jurist at Madrid's main university. A PP government would be expected to crack down harder on Eta, which last year came close to killing Señor Aznar in a bomb attack. His cool behaviour after the explosion won him widespread admiration.

While professing himself committed to the objective of EMU, Señor Aznar depicts Spain as one of the big powers and breaches the taboo which bars continental leaders from uttering doubt over the fate of monetary union.

"It seems absolutely absurd that something as important as monetary union should not be debated among all the countries. We are committed to the European Union ... but I believe the nations that can make the most transcendental decisions are four or five essential historic nations. France, Germany, Britain, Spain and Italy ... No great process in Europe can get on the road without the basic consensus or common accord of these countries."

> “It seems absurd that EMU is not debated by all the countries”

Señor Aznar would not be drawn on the merits of a delay, something supported by many in Spain, since the country is given little chance of meeting the Maastricht convergence criteria. An Aznar government would keep up the effort to meet the test, but he says he would leave a decision until later.

This is guaranteed to raise eyebrows in Brussels because the Maastricht treaty allows only Britain to decide for itself whether to join EMU. Señor Aznar had high praise for Miguel Boyer, the former Socialist Finance Minister and one of the architects of monetary union, who has just made waves with an outburst against EMU and thrown in his lot with the PP.

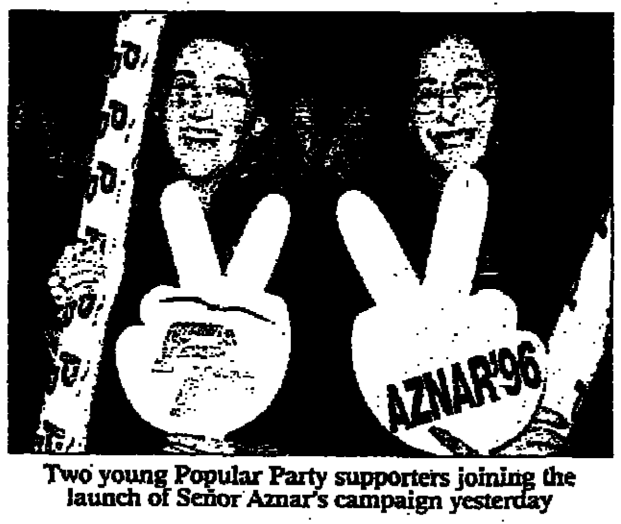
The party leader is also worried about the plan to bring in new EU members from Eastern Europe. Under present arrangments, he says, Spain would carry the burden of bailing out the former Communist countries. An Aznar government would also side with Britain in its refusal to give up the veto in the EU's foreign and defence policies.

On Gibraltar, which has long bedevilled ties between London and Madrid, Señor Aznar says he does not exclude raising the pressure on the frontier. Like previous governments, he will not allow the Gibraltarians to take part in Anglo-Spanish negotiations. "There are good relations but no trust" between Spain and Britain over the issue, he said.

Britain remains something of a model when it comes to the PP's plans for trimming waste and mismanagement in the bureaucracy and for privatisation. He is banking, he says, on a German-style pact involving unions, employers and the government. Only in the area of fraud and corruption will he be ferocious.

He flinches at any comparison with the election promises of Jacques Chirac in France last year. "I am the opposite. I feel much more in tune with what has come about in Germany," he says.

He compares himself with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in another department — the lack of a strong public personality, which is often held to be his biggest handicap. Spain has had enough of charisma with Señor González, he says.



Two young Popular Party supporters joining the launch of Señor Aznar's campaign yesterday

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Iranians held as Nato raids Bosnia 'terrorist' base

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

NATO forces claimed yesterday to have raided a terrorist training camp 20 miles west of Sarajevo, capturing 11 men and an arsenal of handguns, sniper rifles, rocket launchers, assault rifles and bombs disguised as children's toys.

The Bosnian Government, however, denied the allegation, and said the facility was a training school for "anti-terrorist units" specialising in the arrest of war criminals.

"We have never been accused of any form of terrorism. We have been known throughout the world as victims of terrorism, rather than those who organise it," said Mirza Hajric, the Bosnian government spokesman. "This allegation is very hurtful."

Nato officials said they believed three of the men held were Iranians because they were carrying documents written in Farsi and had open-ended Air Iran tickets to Tehran. Eight others are Bosnian members of the Interior Ministry who were allegedly being trained by the Iranians to make terrorist bombs and conduct other terrorist acts. Government officials said the camp, in a former ski centre near Fojnica, was an intelligence training facility that had foreign instructors before and during the war. The raid was carried out by about 250 American and French troops backed by tanks and helicopters on Thursday. Nato officials refused to elaborate on what prompted the raid, saying only that troops around the area had witnessed "suspicious activity".

On Thursday night, Bosnia's President Izetbegovic said the camp was an old intelligence training facility that was in the process of being shut down. But Admiral Leighton Smith, the American Commander of Nato forces in Bosnia, said: "No one can escape the obvious, that this is a terrorist training activity going on in this building and it has direct association with the people in the Government."

The Dayton agreement forbids the presence of foreign forces in Bosnia and stipulated that they had to leave the country by January 19.

The presence of "Mujahidin" forces in Bosnia has long concerned the American State Department, which feared that hostile forces could use Bosnia as a launching pad for attacks against Western troops.

The United Nations estimated that there were once up to 3,000 Islamic volunteers from Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Egypt aiding the outgunned Bosnian Army. However, Nato officials reported that all foreign fighters had left the country by the end of last month.

Nato officials said the camp contained an extensive arsenal of explosive devices built into plastic toys including a car, helicopter and ice cream cone. Instructions found indicated that special government forces were being trained to hit civilian, as well military, targets.

However, Nato said there was no evidence that terrorist operations were being conducted from the site.

"There is no complaint that an intelligence school was run here but methods of terrorism and kidnapping which obviously violate international accords are our great concerns," an American officer said.

Leading article, page 23

Suspects go free as troops look on

BY STACY SULLIVAN

Karadzic: a face that went unrecognised

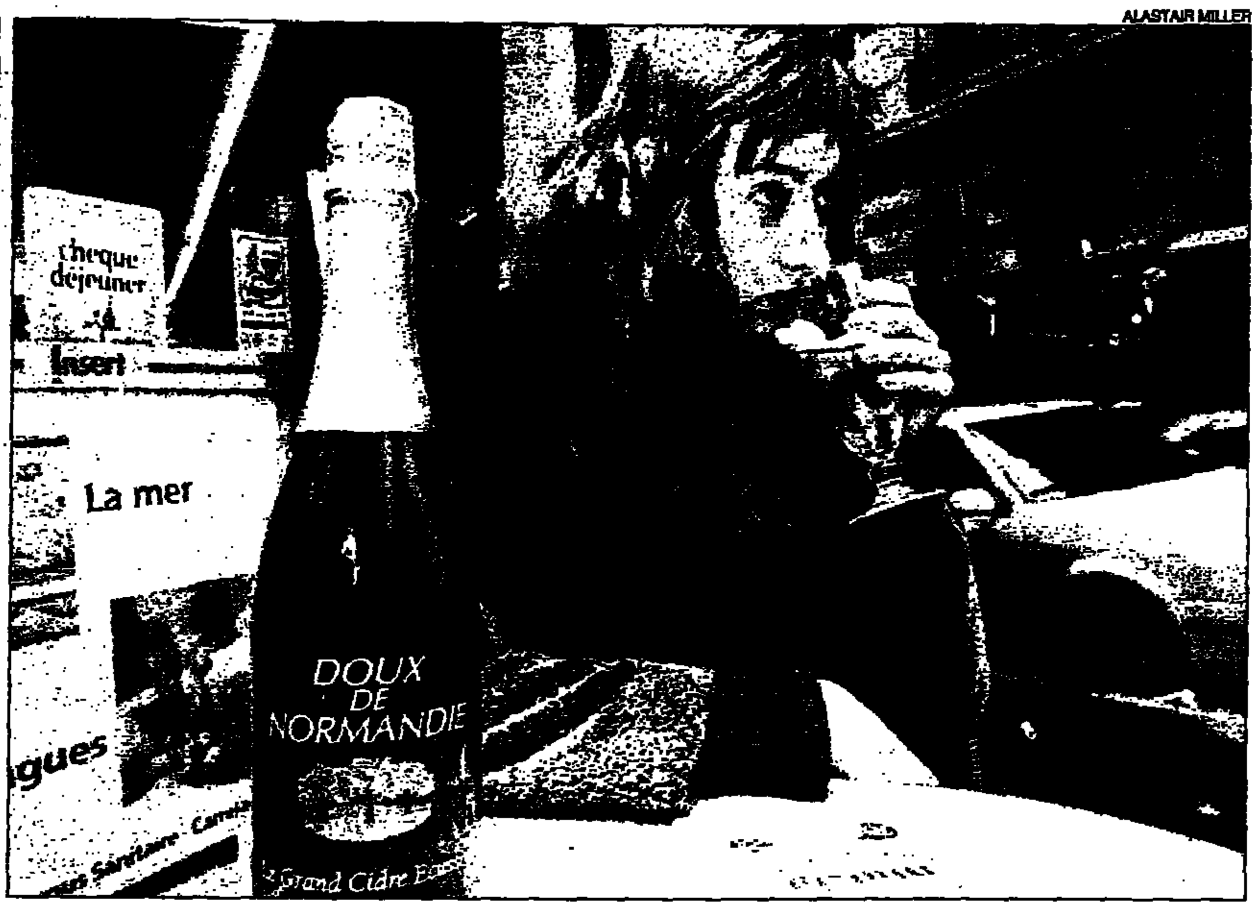
NATO peacekeepers in Bosnia are mandated to detain suspected war criminals if they come across them under the Dayton agreement, but it appears no-one told them about their obligation.

A run through any of Nato checkpoints along the so-called zone of separation confirms that the troops have not been given any information about the 52 suspected war criminals indicted by the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. Most had not even heard of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, or General Ratko Mladic, his military counterpart, both indicted over war crimes.

When shown a colour photograph of Dr Karadzic, American troops at checkpoints shrugged their shoulders. "Looks familiar," said a private manning a checkpoint at the border town of Caparde. When informed of who was in the photograph, the private said he did not know he had a mandate to detain the fugitive.

International mediators want Nato troops to take a more active role over war criminals after the reports that Mr Karadzic was able to drive through Nato checkpoints undetected.

William Perry, US Defence Secretary, has promised more information would be given to troops to help them to detain suspected war criminals.


ALASTAIR MILLER

Normandy cider, one of two French ciders that now qualify for the coveted *Appellation contrôlée* badge of quality

Elite wine club admits humble cider

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ONLY the best French wines may describe themselves as *Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée*, or AOC, but last week the humble cider, traditional beverage of the French peasantry, was admitted to this exclusive club.

Philippe Vasseur, French Minister of Agriculture, announced on Thursday that just two types of cider, one from the Auge region in Normandy and the other from Cornouaille in Brittany, could henceforth qualify for the coveted AOC badge of quality. Such wines must meet certain strict standards and are guaranteed to come from the area and vineyard stated on the label.

"This double recognition is a major trump for cider everywhere since it enlarges the range of products offered to consumers while rewarding the know-how and expertise of the producers," M Vasseur said.

There are some 150 cidermakers in the Auge and Cornouaille regions, producing just 1 per cent of France's total output of cider.

The two areas declared AOC cider regions were selected because of their highly distinctive flavours, according to the Institut National d'Appellation Contrôlée in Paris. Gèrard Martineau, the institute's cider expert, waxed lyrical when describing the two ciders. The Auge was "a persistent little cider", he said, with a "hint of citrus fruits, limes and apples". He described the Cornouaille as a more "animal" cider. "The bitterness is more pronounced, while the bouquet is closer to butter and leather."

"These are probably the two most famous ciders in France. They have been awarded the AOC because they have characteristics, linked to the quality of the soil, that would be impossible to produce in any other region," Jacques Gautier of the institute said.

Unlike mass-produced ciders which are given their fizz in a factory, the AOC ciders go through a second fermentation process in the bottle.

"It's a good thing to guarantee the quality of ciders. In fact it's far too late in coming," Jacques Dupont, wine critic for *Le Point* magazine, said. "Already the variety of types of apple used in cider making has been reduced and many great ciders have disappeared."

Italian President calls early election

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

PRESIDENT SCALFARO of Italy dissolved parliament yesterday, setting the stage for an early general election after the "post-Fascist" leader, Gianfranco Fini, repeatedly sabotaged attempts to forge a broad-based Government to oversee constitutional reform.

The head of state took the decision to call an election on April 21, three years before schedule, after talking to the two Speakers, Irene Pivetti, of the Chamber of Deputies, and Carlo Scognamiglio, of the Senate.

President Scalfaro had sought to postpone an early election ever since Silvio Berlusconi, the Forza Italia leader, resigned in December 1994 after his right-wing coalition fell apart.

Augusto Fantozzi, the Finance Minister, later said the election would be held on April 21.

On Wednesday Antonio Maccanico, the Prime Minister designate, abandoned his efforts to create Italy's 55th postwar republican government. Signor Maccanico blamed Signor Fini, the National Alliance leader, and his supporters in the conservative Freedom Alliance for torpedoing his work. He said that they unreasonably wanted to tie the hands of a future Government by demanding the implementation of a French-style system. Signor Maccanico said it would be up to parliament to carry out whatever reforms were deemed necessary. Last month Signor Fini forced the resignation of Lamberto Dini, the caretaker Prime Minister.

Pope signals change in rules for conclave cardinals

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ROMAN Catholic cardinals will have to undergo stringent medical tests before they go into conclave to elect the next Pope, and they will sleep in a luxury Vatican hotel instead of traditionally spartan cells under changes in the succession rules being promulgated by the Pope.

The Pope is also believed to be considering relaxing the rules governing cardinals talking to reporters during conclaves. Cardinals are prohibited under pain of excommunication from speaking to any outsider about the deliberations. However, the Pope may allow cardinals to describe the general atmosphere during the sessions to reporters, but not details on the voting.

In an apostolic letter on future conclaves to be issued by the 75-year-old Pope over the next few months, he will recommend that all the cardinals provide a doctor's certificate to ensure that they are in good health, according to Vatican sources in *Il Messaggero*. The procedure is designed to avoid a repeat of the election of Pope John Paul I, who died only 33 days after his election in 1978, prompting speculation that he had been murdered.

The Pope also has decided to relax the traditional physical isolation. The cardinals will be allowed to sleep in a specially built luxury hotel within the Vatican City. In the past conclavists had to sleep in cramp and uncomfortable *stanzoni*, or monastic-style cells in the Apostolic Palace. The use of the hotel is sure to enrage environmentalists, who opposed its construction over the past four years on the ground that the building obscured a view of the dome.

Voting will continue to take place in the Sistine Chapel. Officials said that the Pope had no plans to change the system by which cardinals signalled to the crowd in St Peter's Square the outcome: black smoke meaning they had failed to elect a Pope and white smoke signifying one of their number was the new incumbent.

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هكذا من الاهل

Ill omens plague Year of the Rat

From Jonathan Mirsky in hong kong

THE natural and man-made disasters rocking China as it enters the Year of the Rat, which begins on Monday, are seen by many Chinese as auguries that their Government has lost its legitimacy.

Even Western-educated Hong Kong intellectuals confess themselves shaken by recent dark happenings in a season when people give presents of flowering plants and fruit symbolising hope, life and the coming of spring.

In traditional theory, when the empire was ruled badly, it was said to have lost the Mandate of Heaven and the people would rebel. The sign of this loss was a series of strange disasters.

The Chinese Government, never eager to report bad news, at this season becomes especially careful about what it reveals. Only yesterday it was announced in *Wen Wei Po*, a Peking-backed Hong Kong newspaper, that 23 people died on February 9 when a ferry sank in a gale off the southeast coast.

The explosion of the Long March rocket and its satellite this week was not only a financial disaster for China, which had been counting on cheap satellite launches to attract foreign customers, but a human one as well, resulting in somewhere between a handful of deaths and many more — according to foreigners near the scene — as flaming debris and poisonous gas spread over an agricultural region in the southwest of the country.

The television-watching public was shielded from a view of the flaming rocket hurtling into the ground, and heard only control room technicians gasping: "It's finished." Yesterday's Chinese newspapers carried only minimal stories. There was a similar lack of coverage in January 1995 when another Long March rocket disintegrated on lift-off.

All satellite launches were suspended after the latest accident, the China Aerospace Corporation said yesterday. "There were some victims, including among the space centre personnel," it said. A local official said there were four deaths and that some people had been hurt by fumes.

Earlier this month an earthquake measuring seven on the Richter scale devastated a vast area near the Tibetan border, killing more than 300 people and injuring at least 16,000. Most of the survivors are still camping in freezing weather. In this case the authorities issued a call for international help.

Last month a house storing 20 tonnes of illegal dynamite blew up in Hunan, Mao's home province, killing 121 people.

Two weeks ago, Li Paiyao, a senior official of the National People's Congress, was killed when he interrupted a burglary carried out by a guard at his official residence. Li came from a family so distinguished that in 1949 his father stood near Mao when he proclaimed the People's Republic.

This year has an additional fateful characteristic. It is an "extra-August" year, which means an additional month has been added to balance the lunar calendar. Such years may be auspicious or catastrophic. Another such year was 1976, when Mao died and China's worst earthquake this century destroyed the city of Tangshan. In 1911 the last dynasty fell. This year the life of Deng Xiaoping, the 91-year-old senior leader, has been drawing to a close.

Two gold rats, one modelled on the Statue of Liberty, go on sale at a Hong Kong jewellers for about £520 each to mark the Year of the Rat

China is warned Japan may rearm if Taiwan raided

From Peregrine Hodson in tokyo

JAPAN will rearm if China attacks Taiwan, according to a former senior American defence official.

Charles Freeman, Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs, said yesterday he had told Chinese officials that, if the Chinese attacked Taiwan, Japan would rearm, whether the Americans intervened or not and whatever the outcome of the fighting.

"If we decide not to intervene, there will be many people in Japan who see this as a default on American responsibility to manage the strategic perimeter of Japan, and there will be a lot of people and a lot of pressure demanding that Japan acquire the capability to do this by itself without the United States," he said.

"Conversely, if the US decides to intervene, then we have to use bases in Japan to do it. This means that the Japanese Government has to choose between good relations with China and its alliance with the US.

"I think any Japanese Government would choose the US, but I also think that no Japanese Government would be comfortable being put in this position by a foreigner. There would be pressure for Japan to acquire its own military capabilities, so that foreigners could not again put Japan in this kind of unfavourable position."

However, a senior official of the Liberal Democratic Party has dismissed the threat to Taiwan as relatively unimportant and offered a different perspective on future relations with China.

"If China becomes too overbearing, what leverage do we have? It won't be military leverage or money, but technology — and whether we will be generous enough to offer technology. Basic technology power in Asia is our target."

☐ **Tokyo irked:** Japan has informed South Korea that its military exercise off disputed islands runs counter to the spirit of an earlier meeting between Yukihiko Ikeda, Japan's Foreign Minister, and Kim Tae Jim, South Korean Ambassador, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Sadayuki Hayashi, the Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister, voiced Tokyo's displeasure in a telephone call to Mr Kim. *(AFP)*

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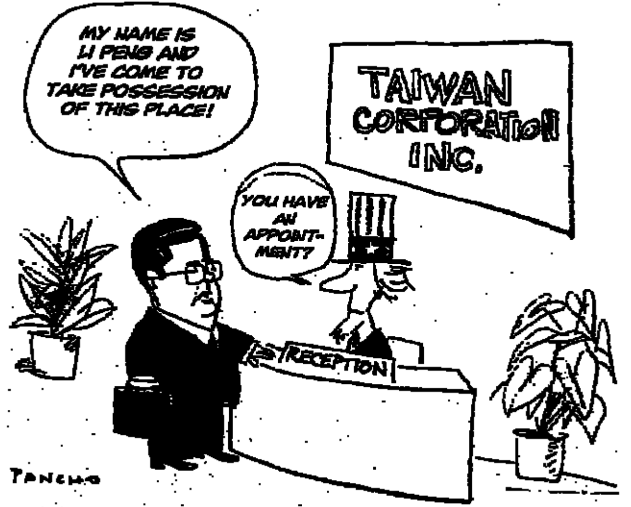
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How the threat to Taiwan was seen by *Le Monde*

Bangladesh poll stirs new protests

Dhaka: The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won an expected easy victory yesterday after general elections. But boycotting opposition leaders dismissed the vote and threatened fresh action to paralyse the country.

Partial poll results showed that the BNP of Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister, had won 167 out of 300 parliamentary seats, with one seat going to an independent candidate.

As the country emerged from a three-day shutdown called to protest against the vote, opposition leaders threatened yet another strike in the poverty-stricken nation which has been repeatedly disrupted by stoppages since 1994.

Thursday's vote was accompanied by widespread violence. At least 16 people were killed and 500 wounded; poll officials were attacked, ballot papers stolen and voting centres set ablaze. *(Reuter)*

Mohajirs shot dead by police

Karachi: Eight activists of the ethnic Mohajir National Movement were shot dead and two others wounded in a gun battle, Pakistani police reported yesterday.

"They were terrorists and one of them, Hasan Akhter, was wanted in over 40 criminal cases," police said. The shootout began when police raided a house used as the movement's hideout in the western Orangi Town area.

Akhter's weeping mother said at the hospital where the bodies were taken that her son and his friends had been shot as they slept. "The policemen broke open the door and sprayed bullets on my sleeping children."

The Mohajirs have called a general strike for today in protest at the killing of four of its activists by police on Thursday. Police said they had died in a gunfight. The movement claimed that police arrested the four and then shot them in cold blood. *(Reuter)*

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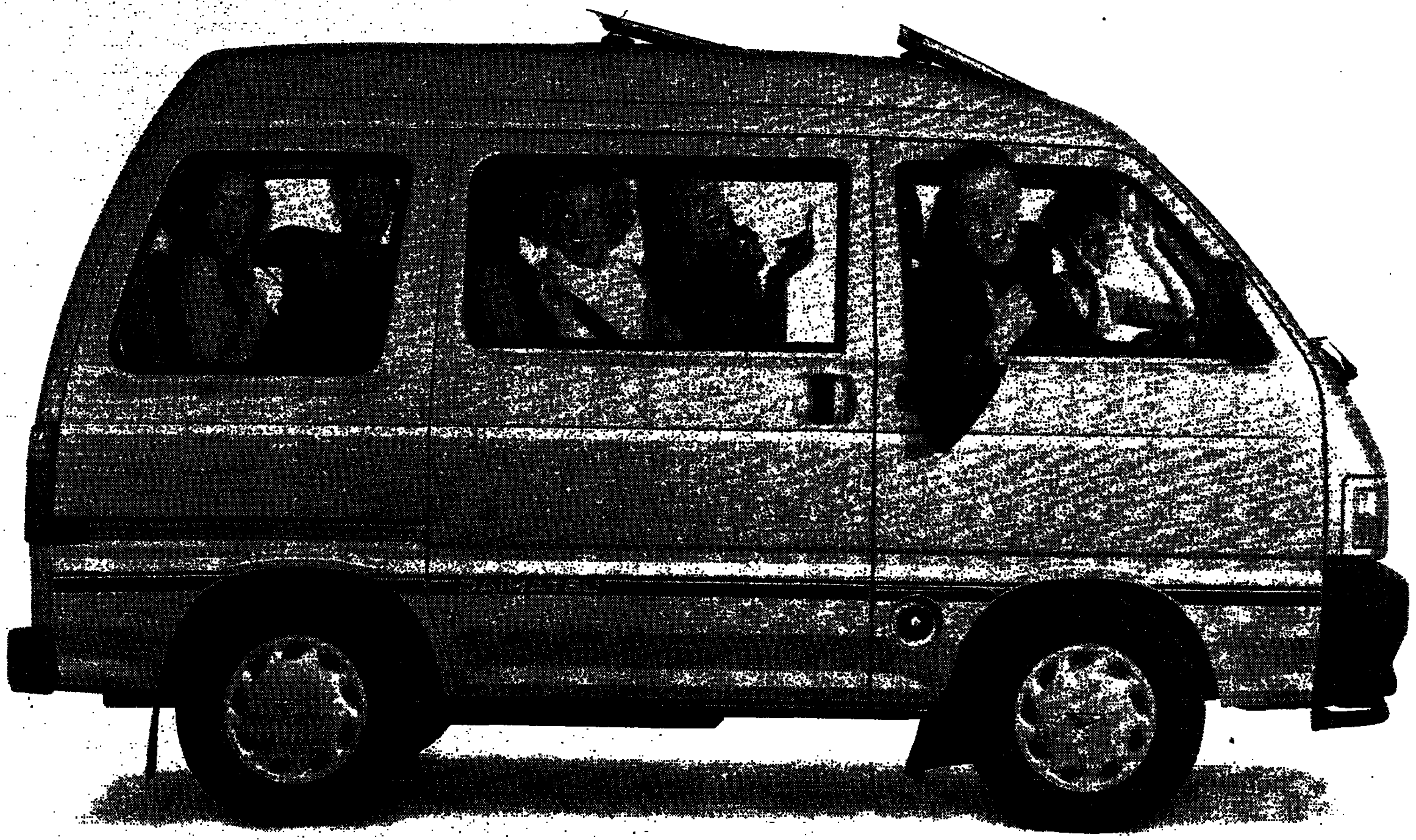

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هكذا من الرجل

Whitewater factor drags Republican wives into media gauntlet

Mrs Dole: accused of having enjoyed financial gains

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THERE was a time when spouses of presidential candidates led a surrogate existence, appearing before tiny crowds in remote coffee shops, courting minor dignitaries and talking to small-town newspapers.

Tramping through the snows of New Hampshire this week, that was a role Honey, the wife of Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, has been eager to resuscitate. But as she left the safety of offices and church halls in the Granite State, Mrs Alexander soon ran into the inevitable barrage of questions about her business dealings and how she compared herself to Hillary Clinton.

Mrs Clinton's early role as policy adviser to the Administration and her ties to the Whitewater scandal have made the "spouse" card a critical factor.

Scrutiny has focused on Elizabeth Dole, wife of Robert Dole, the Senate Majority Leader from Kansas, and Mrs Alexander, both of whom had successful careers before any declaration was made. Mrs Dole was a former Secretary of Labour and of Transportation in separate Cabinets, and is president of the American Red Cross.

She has been the subject of a less than flattering article in the *New Yorker* which suggested that she had benefited financially from special treatment because of the political activities of her husband. The controversy centres on her personal investments, which were placed in a blind trust while she served in government. According to the magazine, Mrs Dole was given special treatment several times. On one occasion she was able to recoup an initial investment of $250,000 (£162,000) and $71,000 in interest from an insolvent company.

But for Mrs Alexander, director of a childcare business and former board member of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, this has been something of a baptism of fire.

She invested $5,000 in a prison management firm founded by an associate of her husband. After the company proposed to take over the Tennessee prison system, Mrs Alexander traded shares for insurance stock she later sold for $142,000.

Sabina Forbes, a minister's daughter who stays at home and takes care of five children, has remained unscathed by such publicity despite a brief foray as the protagonist in advertisements for her husband, Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher.

Shelley Buchanan, the silent and adoring wife of the firebrand commentator, has seen too much to wish for a profile. She spent three seasons as an assistant to Richard Nixon on the campaign trail, and when he became President in 1968 she settled into a job as receptionist in the White House.

"I did that for six years," she said. "If you wanted to see the President or any of his senior staff, you had to see me first."

Studied silence makes her the ideal foil to Pat Buchanan and his fiery message. It is also a shrewd tactic by the Buchanan camp to protect her.

Mrs Alexander perhaps should take a lesson from the woman who witnessed Watergate, or she may find her image as a second Mrs Clinton remains.

Buchanan packs punches to pull level with Dole

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE unthinkable is becoming daily more likely. Pat Buchanan, the right-wing populist, could beat Robert Dole in next Tuesday's critical New Hampshire primary and throw the race for the Republican presidential nomination into disarray.

Mr Buchanan, a former amateur boxer, punched hardest and to best effect in a high-stakes televised debate on Thursday night that became an ugly free-for-all, and yesterday's polls showed that the broadcaster had drawn level with Mr Dole, the ostensible front-runner.

Mr Buchanan has cornered the sizeable conservative vote while Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, is now splitting Mr Dole's mainstream support. Polls say that his followers are more likely than Mr Dole's to turn out on the day. He alone brings real passion and conviction to the race, and his protectionist message clearly resonates at a time of widespread economic insecurity.

Mr Buchanan won the Louisiana caucuses and nearly *defeated Mr Dole in Iowa last* week. President Clinton's campaign officials are ecstatic at his New Hampshire surge. Republican elders are appalled at the idea of a nominee even more extreme than the disastrous Barry Goldwater in 1964, but the more the Establishment attacks Mr Buchanan, the more *it* fuels his insurgency. Whatever the merits of his ideas, Mr Buchanan is a brilliant television performer, and used his professional training to full effect in Thursday's eight-man debate.

Standing next to Mr Dole, he excoriated the veteran Senate leader for airing advertisements labelling him an "extremist — the cuss word of the Establishment". He continued: "If I am an extremist, why are you pirating my ideas and parroting my rhetoric? Where did you get that idea for the cultural war for the soul of America? Where did you get this other idea about corporate greed? I don't think you can call me an extremist when you've become a pretty good echo of Pat Buchanan."

Mr Dole, who had hoped to remain aloof and presidential, turned to Mr Buchanan and remarked: "Bad day or something?" He mocked what he called "Pat's isolationist kick", and accused him of wanting to "build a fence round America". But Mr Buchanan pleaded "guilty" to wanting to *protect American* workers' jobs.

He damned the free trade agreements Mr Dole has shepherded through Congress, saying they shipped jobs abroad and depressed wages at home. He attacked Mr Dole's support for a $50 billion (£32 billion) Mexican *bail-out*, which was designed, he said, to rescue the senator's Wall Street friends.

Mr Alexander, who insists he is the only viable alternative to Mr Dole, also rounded on the 72-year-old senator, saying he was amazed he had let his handlers air such vicious advertisements against fellow Republicans. But Mr Alexander was attacked by Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher who has soared and plummeted like a modern-day Icarus.

He accused Mr Alexander of turning $20,000 into $1.9 million through "various scams" while Tennessee's Governor. Mr Alexander said he was proud of his successful capitalism, which was public knowledge because he had released his tax returns. "Steve, why don't you issue your tax returns?" he shot back.

A CNN post-debate poll showed 26 per cent of likely New Hampshire voters backing Mr Buchanan, with Mr Dole on 23, Mr Alexander 18, and Mr Forbes 15. A daily *Boston Globe* poll showed Mr Dole *dropping to* 25, Mr Buchanan rising to 22 and Mr Alexander and Mr Forbes both on 14. A *New York Post* poll showed Mr Dole and Mr Buchanan both on 21, with Mr Alexander and Mr Forbes on 15.

Peter Stothard, Weekend

Rio police to guard carnival tourists

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

MARIA LUZIA DA SILVA has been waiting all year for the next four days of Rio Carnival revelry.

She will strap on pink high heels, adorn her scantily clad body with glittering accessories, and dance to vibrant, tropical sambas. Senhora da Silva has saved for months from her meagre salary as a shop assistant to buy the £160 costume for the flamboyant procession choreographed by the Mangueira Samba School, one of 20 competing for a prize for best song and show.

"I will dance until I drop. This will be the biggest moment for me, it will be a feeling of sheer exhilaration," said the 20-year-old *passista* (carnival procession dancer).

More than 100,000 people and hundreds of richly adorned mobile stages will cram the wide avenue in the Sambadrome, a stadium that has become the centre of the carnival. Each school, many run by Mafia-like families who also control an illegal gambling game played on Rio street corners, spends at least £1 million to put on its show.

A good seat can cost £100, and for most residents this is *something only tourists can* afford. Many leave the city for the four-day holiday and let the visitors take over. "Our carnival has become a display for tourists happy to pay the hefty prices. It is no longer the street party which it once was" Maria Augusta Rodrigues, a veteran choreographer, said.

Milton Cunha, the artistic director of the Beija-Flor samba school, with a giant *baby, one of hundreds of figures featuring in the Rio carnival which starts today*

To protect the show from crime, the city authorities have moved the party from the streets to the Sambadrome and have put on hundreds of air-conditioned coaches to transport people to the venue. More than 10,000 policemen will surround the stadium to protect the tourists from pickpockets.

Many residents argue, however, that the carnival has become flashier but is still the party of the year for all, where inhibitions are let loose and people indulge in shameless hedonism. Carnival was an import from Portuguese colonists in the 18th century who put on yearly balls to mark a religious holiday, and then it was mixed with the traditions of freed African slaves.

Tennessee coma victim starts talking again after seven speechless years

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

A MAN came out of a seven-year coma in a flurry of words, proceeded to talk coherently almost nonstop for 18 hours, and then lapsed back into silence as a result of a bout of pneumonia.

Gary Dockery, 42, a Tennessee policeman, originally entered his vegetative condition after being shot in September 1988. He had lain in hospital, speechless, to the despair of family and friends who agonised over whether efforts should be made to keep him alive.

Inexplicably, Mr Dockery this week regained his power of speech. His sister, Lisa, while sitting by his bed at a hospital in Chattanooga, noticed an unusually alert look in the eyes which for more than seven years had betrayed little sign of life. "I am your sister," she said, not for a moment expecting a reply. "Uh-huh," mumbled Mr Dockery. Lisa exclaimed: "You're talking!" To which her brother replied brightly: "I sure am."

The next day he talked and talked, asking about the President (Ronald Reagan) and a long list of friends, giving their full names. He knew the colour of his vehicle, the names and colours of his horses, recognised at once his sons, Colt and Shane, now aged 12 and 19, and pooh-poohed suggestions that he rest. The one thing he could not recall was his shooting, for which a man is serving a 37-year sentence.

Lisa Dockery summoned other members of the family, to whom Mr Dockery spoke as if not a day had passed. When Lisa telephoned her older brother, Dennis, she told him: "There's someone here who wants to talk to you." She then handed the phone to Gary who said: "Hey, buddy."

Dennis Dockery said afterwards: "I couldn't believe it. I started screaming my brother's name and told him I loved him." Such expressions of affection come uneasily to Tennessee menfolk, and Gary said teasingly: "Me? You love me?"

His recovery then started to falter, owing to a bout of pneumonia which had begun before he recovered his speech. Yesterday he underwent a life-saving operation that drained infectious fluid from his lungs. He opened his eyes later and responded to questions by squeezing the hands of relatives at his bedside.

David Rankine, a neurologist treating Mr Dockery, said it was likely that his recovery would be permanent. However, doctors are baffled by the way he burst back into conversation and say that he may not have been in a full coma. They said it was not possible to draw conclusions about other coma victims.

Dr Rankine said that when Mr Dockery started to speak it was as if someone had simply reinserted an electric plug which powered his consciousness. Before he came round, Mr Dockery was receiving antibiotics.

Rifkind reassures Greece

London: Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has telephoned Theodoros Pangalos, his Greek counterpart, to assure him Britain was not favouring Turkey or taking an anti-Greek position in urging dialogue between the two countries over sovereignty in the Aegean (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Pangalos had denounced statements issued after Mr Rifkind's meeting in London with Deniz Baykal, *the Turkish Foreign Minister*, which suggested that he had urged the two sides to negotiate over the sovereignty of Imia, in a group of rocky islets claimed by both Ankara and Athens.

Portuguese see the light

Lisbon: *After four years of* dark mornings, Portugal is to abandon Central European Time and realign its clocks with Britain and Ireland. Portugal will not move its clocks forward on March 31, when most of its European Union partners switch to summer time; and so be on the equivalent of British Summer Time. In autumn clocks switch back to GMT. The change to Central European Time put Lisbon, mainland Europe's westernmost capital, in the same time zone as Vienna, Prague and Budapest. *(AP)*

Palestinians to launch airline

Jerusalem: The Palestinian Authority is to launch its own airline (Ross Dunn writes). Pierre Jeanniot, director-general of the International Air Transport Association, said he expected flights between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to start this summer. Clearance for international routes would come later. M Jeanniot said crew were being trained. *This week The Netherlands* donated two planes. Other countries are likely to follow.

New threat to tobacco giant

Los Angeles: The American tobacco industry is facing a new legal threat from airline crews exposed to secondhand smoking (Giles Whittell writes). An appeals court has ruled that 60,000 flight attendants can join the lawsuit of a stewardess who is suing Philip Morris, the tobacco giant, for giving her lung cancer although she has never smoked.

Tax burden

Paris: A retired businessman paid 3.7 million francs (about £500,000) in fines and back tax in more than 22 tonnes of one franc coins, delivered to a tax office in 900 bags by four rented armoured vans. *(AFP)*

Farrakhan calls on US to halt 'mass murder of Iraqis'

BY TOM RHODES

LOUIS FARRAKHAN, the controversial black activist, has made peace with another of his country's sworn enemies and accused America of inciting the "mass murder" of the Iraqi people.

In Baghdad this week to meet President Saddam Hussein, Mr Farrakhan denounced the United Nations sanctions imposed against Iraq after the Gulf War and attacked the insistence of Washington on maintaining the embargo. "Keeping them *in place is* a very wicked policy that must be stopped immediately," the Nation of Islam leader said after touring the Amiriya shelter in which hundreds of civilians were said to have been killed in an American air raid.

"I will work nights and days, marshalling the moral force that I believe is in all the American people, to bring every pressure on our Government that the mass murder of the Iraqi people must cease."

His latest onslaught on America is likely to provoke a swift response from Washington, where Mr Farrakhan has already been branded a foreign agent. After visiting Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in *Tripoli last month*, Mr Farrakhan was reported to have accepted a $1 billion (£640 million) donation from the Libyan leader to mobilise oppressed blacks in the United States and influence foreign policy.

The Justice Department has written a letter to Mr Farrakhan at his Chicago headquarters, warning him that he must register with the federal Government if he acts as an agent for Libya.

Mr Farrakhan's tour of the Middle East and Africa was undertaken ostensibly to increase the prestige and influence which his movement acquired after the "Million Man March" in Washington last October.

Meanwhile, as the State Department accused Mr Farrakhan of "cavorting with dictators" in Libya and Iran, a newspaper in Tehran this week quoted him as saying that God would give Muslims the honour of bringing down the United States. His next stop is Damascus.

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هكذا من الأصل

Tennis professional's task is to serve up fitness routine as Russian leader enters electoral contest

Yeltsin coach calls the shots

MOSCOW FILE

by RICHARD BEESTON

WHEN President Yeltsin strode purposefully through the streets of Yekaterinburg, his home town, and even took a ride on a new Metro, his relaxed style and hearty demeanour left veteran Kremlin watchers stunned this week.

For a man who suffered two heart attacks and appeared physically unable to complete public duties last year, the sight of the Russian leader hitting the campaign trail in the sub-zero temperatures of the Urals was nothing short of miraculous.

How had Mr Yeltsin, 65, succeeded in sobering up and reinvigorating himself so convincingly only six weeks after he was under strict medical supervision?

The clue seems to lie in a little noticed announcement last month about the appointment of Shamil Tarpishchev, a tennis professional and Olympic committee chairman, who was assigned to the Yeltsin re-election committee and entrusted with one of the most important campaign tasks. A former Davis Cup player and Soviet team coach, Mr Tarpishchev, 47, is responsible for keeping Mr Yeltsin fit through the punishing four months of campaigning up to the June 16 election.

"My job is not so much to exhaust Boris Nikolayevich with training, but rather to help him to lighten the stress and pressure of his work," he told a newspaper.

Like many of Mr Yeltsin's closest associates, Mr Tarpishchev's rise to power was almost accidental. The two met in 1988 when the President was abandoning his traditional loyalty to the good socialist team sport of volleyball in favour of the far more bourgeois pursuit of tennis. The two men struck up an immediate friendship, which has endured in spite of criticism over the tennis professional's lucrative business interests in the import of alcoholic drinks.

There is concern, however, that he might bring some unorthodox practices to the presidential race. According to an American tennis professional, the Tatar-born coach has a habit of requesting challengers not to give the Kremlin leader difficult shots. That may work on court, but is unlikely to have much effect in the world of politics.

SAM HUTCHINSON

Shamil Tarpishchev, who is a close personal friend of the President

Taking out expensive insurance

SOME influential figures in Moscow's hierarchy are taking steps to protect themselves against the likelihood of a Communist President. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist candidate and front-runner, has been given a taste of the lifestyle that awaits him if he makes it to high office. He flew to the recent World Economic Forum in Davos on a private jet lent by a Russian banker and was ferried from the airport to the conference centre by the Russian envoy in his official limousine. "It is pathetic how everybody suddenly wants to be Zyuganov's friend," said one Moscow financier. "People will do anything for him."

Language of Tolstoy under fire from West

AFTER a five-year onlaught by Western culture, Russian linguists have launched a fierce rearguard action to protect their battered mother tongue from an invasion of foreign advertisements, pop music and soap operas.

"The English and others have long propagated their languages," said Vladimir Kinelyov, chairman of the Council on the Russian Language, established by President Yeltsin. "They protected their interests, and now we have to protect ours."

Once the dominant language over the entire Soviet Union, Russian has been in steady decline since the collapse of communism and is threatened even on Russian soil. English has become the language of business and communications. Pop musicians often mix English words with Russian. Worst of all, the language of Pushkin and Tolstoy is being undermined by cheap novels from authors in the West.

Some leaders are taking up the cause. Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, has issued decrees requiring all product information to be in Russian and has threatened to pull down advertising hoardings in English.

Benefits from Kohl visit will provide boost for Kremlin

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, will wade this weekend into the muddy waters of the Russian presidential election campaign with a three-day visit to Boris Yeltsin, his old friend.

The trip is poorly timed, coming only days after President Yeltsin announced his intention to stand for re-election in June. There is little doubt that the Chancellor supports the Russian leader partly because he is, as one senior Bonn aide put it, "a man to be trusted".

President Yeltsin delivered on his promise to withdraw all Russian troops from Germany and Herr Kohl is still duly grateful. The bloody war in Chechenia is regarded in Bonn as untypical of Moscow's treatment of minorities. Moreover, the alternative to Mr Yeltsin — the Communist favourite, Gennadi Zyuganov — is regarded in Bonn, as in Washington, as having unappealing policies.

The Chancellor's foreign policy advisers say that he will try, despite these sympathies, to keep out of the election campaign. This is a vain hope, for Herr Kohl comes bearing gifts.

A key component of Germany's policy towards Russia is to integrate it more closely with the West and thus ease Moscow's suspicions about Nato enlargement into Central Europe. Herr Kohl has been urging the Group of Seven leading industrial nations to accept Russia as an equal partner. Significantly, Dr Jürgen Stark, Bonn's sherpa for the G7 summit, will be accompanying him to Moscow at the weekend. There is also talk of a security or "strategic" relationship with Moscow to show Russia that Nato is not a hostile force.

Bonn is considering better conditions for Russia in export credit guarantees. Germany plays a large part in the International Monetary Fund credit agreement to be signed with Moscow this month.

It will be difficult for Mr Yeltsin's rivals to interpret these gifts and gestures in any other way than as an election boost. Herr Kohl has also emphasised that he does not intend to meet any of Mr Yeltsin's rivals, even Grigori Yavlinsky, the reformer. The reason, his advisers say, is that the German leader would then, in the interests of fairness, have to meet all the candidates, including Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the ultranationalist.

European foreign policy is in turmoil. Herr Kohl has to speak not only for Germany but also for Europe when he visits Moscow. Central Europe, in particular, is watching carefully for any retreat from the European Union and the Nato commitment to enlargement.

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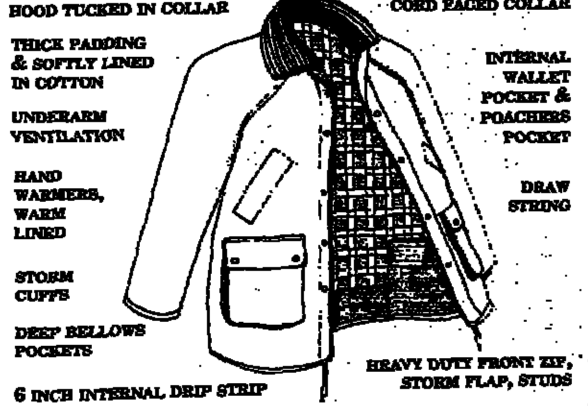
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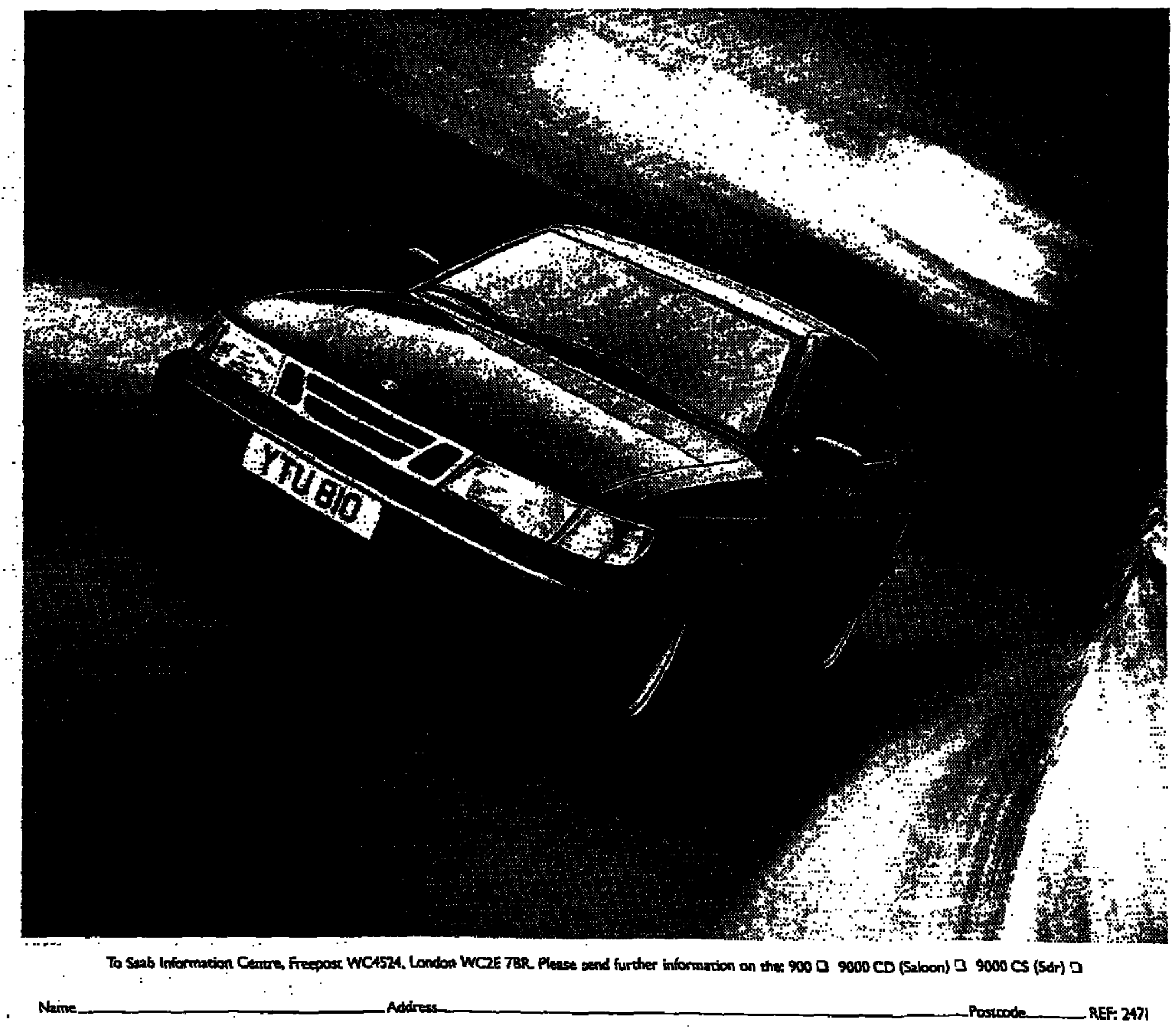

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هكذا في الاصل

Home Secretary need not disclose reasons for removal certificate

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Abdi
Same v Same, Ex parte Gawe
Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Lloyd of Berwick
[Speeches February 15]

On appeals to special adjudicators against certificates of the Secretary of State for the Home Department that the claims of applicants for asylum that their removal to a third country would be contrary to the obligations of the United Kingdom under the Geneva Convention 1951 were "without foundation", the Home Secretary was not obliged to disclose all the material on which he had based the certificates.

The Home Secretary's statement that on the basis of his knowledge and previous experiences he had no reason to believe that the third country would not comply with its Convention obligations had, in the absence of challenge, been admissible and sufficient evidence in support of the certificates.

The House of Lords by a majority (Lord Slynn dissenting on the first point and Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn dissenting on the second point) affirmed the majority decisions of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Steyn dissenting) (*The Times* April 25, 1994; [1994] Imm AR 402) allowing appeals by the Home Secretary and the special adjudicators from Mr Justice Sedley (*The Times* March 10, 1994), who had allowed applications by Mr Khalif Mohamed Abdi and Mr Abdifatah Abduleh Gawe for judicial review of the Home Secretary's certificates and the adjudicators' determinations.

Mr Ian Macdonald, QC and Miss Christa Fielden for the applicants; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Ian Ashford-Thom for the Home Secretary; Mr Rabinder *Singh for the special adjudicators.*

LORD LLOYD said that the applicants were Somalia nationals who had left Somalia and flown to Spain, where they had spent three and eight days respectively but not claimed asylum. They had then come to the United Kingdom where they had claimed asylum.

The Home Secretary had said in his decision letters:

"You are, under paragraph 8(1)(c) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971, returnable to Spain which is a signatory to the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmd 9171) [the Geneva Convention].

"The secretary of state, on the basis of his knowledge of the immigration policies and practices of Spain, and on previous experiences in returning passengers to Spain, has no reason to believe that, in the circumstances of your particular case, the authorities there would not comply with their obligations under the Convention.

"Paragraph 180K of the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (1993) (HC 725) provides that an application will normally be refused without substantive consideration if there is a safe third country to which the applicant can be sent. [He] can find no grounds for departing from this practice in your case. He therefore . . . certifies that your claim that your removal from the United Kingdom would be contrary to the United Kingdom's obligations under the *Convention is without foundation* as it does not raise any issue as to the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention."

Article 33 of the Convention provided: "No contracting state shall . . . return . . . a refugee . . . to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."

It was not in dispute that paragraph 180K of the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules, if properly invoked, complied with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

The applicants had appealed against the Home Secretary's certificates to special adjudicators under section 8(1) of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993. The procedure was spelt out in Schedule 2 and the Asylum Appeals (Procedure) Rules (SI 1993 No 1661). Paragraph 5 of Schedule 2 made provision for a special appeal procedure where the Home Secretary certified that the claim of the applicant for asylum was without foundation.

Paragraph 5 provided: "(3) . . . a claim is without foundation if . . . (a) it does not raise any issue as to the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention. . ."

The special adjudicators had upheld the Home Secretary's certificates and dismissed the appeals. There had been no evidence before them that Spain was not a "*safe third country*".

The main ground of the applications for judicial review had been that the adjudicators had *not* given proper consideration to that question. The judge had said:

"In a situation in which it is to be expected that most or all of the information about the asylum practices of third countries is in the hands of the secretary of state, it would make a mockery of the special adjudicator's independent duty of rigorous scrutiny if the secretary of state, having balanced the pros and cons and come to his own conclusion about the safety of a third country, could rely upon the face of the certificate which he accordingly grants as sufficient to sustain the certificate on appeal, so long as the asylum-seeker is unable to produce enough of his or her own evidence to controvert it. . .

". . .given the secretary of state's monitoring role and his opportunities to gather information . . . it is incumbent, in my view, on the Home Office representative before a special adjudicator to disclose not only what facts are relied on in support of the certificate (and they may in many cases be simply that nothing at all is known to the detriment of the third country), but to disclose any factual material pointing in the opposite direction."

Lord Justice Steyn had said that Parliament must have intended to create an effective system for safeguarding the fundamental rights of refugees.

If the system set out in the legislation was not by itself effective for that purpose, then it had to be supplemented by the common law in aid of procedural fairness. Fairness required that the Home Secretary should disclose all material facts tending to prove or disprove the safety of the third country.

The main issue in the appeal to the House of Lords was whether the Home Secretary had been obliged to give discovery of the material on which he had based his "without foundation" certificate. The judge decided that issue in favour of the applicants.

The 1993 Rules did not impose any obligation on the Home Secretary to give discovery, but there was specific provision for the disclosure of particular documents: his decision letter, the notes of interview (of the applicant) and a copy of any document referred to in the decision letter.

Mr Pannick argued that an implied obligation to disclose all relevant documents was wholly inconsistent with that express obligation to disclose specific documents. His Lordship could see no answer to that argument.

Nor was he persuaded that justice required that the Home Secretary should give discovery. He found much force in Mr Pannick's argument that, if the courts were to supplement the rules by imposing some such obligation on him, there would be a risk of frustrating the evident *legislative purpose that "without* foundation" appeals should be considered with all due speed. On that, his Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Peter Gibson.

If in a particular case the special adjudicator was in doubt he could always exercise his powers to ask for particulars of the Home Secretary's case or to require a witness to attend and produce documents.

The subsidiary issue in the appeals was whether there had been evidence on which the special adjudicators could uphold the decisions of the Home Secretary. It was argued that the decision letters did *not* in themselves constitute evidence *in* support of the Home Secretary's case and that there had been no other evidence.

The statement in the decision letters that the Home Secretary had knowledge of the immigration policies and practices of Spain and experience of returning passengers there and that on the basis of that knowledge and experience he had no reason to believe that the Spanish authorities would not comply with their Convention obligations might not amount to much, but it was at least some evidence in support of the certificates and had been admissible in that form by virtue of rule 29 of the Immigration Appeals (Procedure) Rules (SI 1984 No 2041) as incorporated in the 1993 Rules by rule 22(3).

The evidence had not been challenged by the applicants, and the adjudicators had been entitled on it to uphold the certificates.

LORD SLYNN, dissenting, said that it was rightly agreed that the special adjudicator was not limited to checking whether the Home Secretary had some material on which he might give a "without foundation" certificate. He had to make an independent judgment and consider de novo whether he was satisfied that the third country was a safe country.

It seemed plain to his Lordship that prima facie the special adjudicator must have the relevant material available to the Home Secretary if he was properly to carry out his function of deciding whether on the material before the Home Secretary, and any admissible extra material, the Home Secretary's decision had been the correct one.

He agreed with Lord Justice Steyn that the current procedure was not such as to enable the special adjudicators fully to perform their task and was calculated to produce unfairness. He would quash their decisions without in any way reflecting on the care with which they personally had conducted the appeals.

He did not consider that the Home Secretary was bound to give great detail of previous cases and the policies and practices of the third country. Here, however, he had given nothing more than that on the basis of his unexplained knowledge and previous experiences he had no reason to believe that the Convention would not be observed.

Without some detail it was almost impossible for the appellant to challenge or for the special adjudicator to assess what he said, no doubt bona fide, was believed to be the position. That really was no more than the ipse dixit of the Home Secretary, which might well be right but was not itself evidence on which that statement was based.

Despite some initial hesitation his Lordship had come to the same conclusion as Lord Justice Steyn that there had been no evidence before the adjudicators on which they could independently be satisfied that the "without foundation" certificates were justified.

Lord Keith and Lord Jauncey agreed with Lord Lloyd.

Lord Mustill agreed with Lord Lloyd on the first point and delivered an opinion agreeing with Lord Justice Steyn and Lord Slynn on the second point.

Solicitors: Param & Co, Colindale; Treasury Solicitor.

No infringement over use of common laudatory word

British Sugar plc v James Robertson and Sons
Before Mr Justice Jacob
[Judgment February 7]

Where a trader had registered as a trade mark a common laudatory word which he used on his product, it was not an infringement of the trade mark for another trader to use the same word in a descriptive way on another product of a different specification.

Mr Justice Jacob sitting in the Chancery Division dismissed in a reserved judgment an action by the plaintiffs, British Sugar plc, for registered trade mark infringement and allowed a counterclaim by the defendants, James Robertson and Sons, for revocation of the registration.

Section 1 of the Trade Marks Act 1994, which implemented Directive 89/104/EEC of December 21, 1988 (1989 OJ No L40/1), provides: "(1) . . . a 'trade mark' means any sign capable of being represented graphically which is capable of distinguishing goods or services of one undertaking from those of other undertakings. . ."

Section 10 provides: "(2) A person infringes a registered trade mark if he uses in the course of trade a sign where because — (a) the sign is identical with the trade mark and is used in relation to goods and services similar to those for which the trade mark is registered . . . there exists a likelihood of confusion on the part of the public, which includes the likelihood of association with the trade *mark*."

Mr David Young, QC, for the plaintiffs; Mr Graham Shipley for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that the plaintiffs' range of "Silver Spoon" products included a syrup called "Treat" which was for pouring over desserts, particularly ice cream. In supermarkets the squeezable plastic container of "Treat" was placed in the section for desserts and ice-cream topping. In 1992 "Treat" was registered under the Trade Marks Act 1938 as a trade mark for desserts, sauces and syrups.

The defendants used "Robertson's" for a range of jams and preserves but in 1995 they launched a new toffee-flavoured sweet spread in an oval jar labelled "Robertson's Toffee Treat". In supermarkets it was placed on the shelves for jams and preserves.

The plaintiffs did not allege passing-off but attempted to show that there was confusion between the two products and damage to their goodwill.

His Lordship said there was no evidence of confusion. The plaintiffs' product had a different purpose, topping rather than spread, and different presentations, and both products were sold with their respective house trade marks, "Silver Spoon" and "Robertson's" prominently displayed.

The defendants' use of "Treat" *could not cause the plaintiffs any* commercial harm. None the less, if there was an infringement of a validly registered trade mark the defendants had to stop using "Treat". The defendants argued that they did not use "Treat" as a trade mark so there could be no infringement under section 10. The question was whether a non-trade mark use fell within section 10.

His Lordship said that there was no reason to limit the provisions of section 10 or to put any gloss on its language. The court was merely required to see whether the sign registered as a trade mark was used in the course of trade and then to consider whether that use fell within the subsections.

Because "Treat" was the mark registered and was clearly used by the defendants the case fell to be considered under section 10(2)(a) relating to an identical mark and similar goods. In effect, a registration covered the goods of the specification plus similar goods. No one might use the registered mark or a similar mark for any of those goods unless he had some other defence. That suggested caution.

In the important sort of case where a mark owner only got registration on the basis of actual distinctiveness for a narrow class of goods it would surely be wrong if he then in practice got protection for a wide range of goods. If a man *wanted wide protection he could* always ask for it and would get it only if his claim was justified.

The purpose of the conception of "goods of the same description" in the 1938 Act was to prevent marks from conflicting not only for their respective actual goods but for a penumbra also. The purpose of "similar goods" in the 1994 Act and EC Directive was to provide protection and separation for a similar sort of penumbra.

Relevant factors in considering whether or not there was similarity were the respective uses and users of the respective goods, their physical nature, the respective trade channels through which they reached the market, the shelves on which they were likely in practice to be found in supermarkets and the extent to which they were competitive. Taking all factors into consideration there was no infringement in the present case.

Mr Justice Jacob then went on to consider whether, if he was wrong in his views thus far, the defendants had a defence under section 11 of the 1994 Act, which stated: "(2) A registered trade mark is not infringed by — . . . (b) the use of indications concerning the kind, quality. . . . intended purpose . . . or other characteristics of the goods. . .".

In construing section 11(2) one had to look at the whole context of the use. It was not possible to tell *from the use of the sign* alone whether the use was descriptive or not. One had also to distinguish between a use of the mark by way of honest comparison and other uses.

The provision permitted a fair comparison between the trade mark owner's goods and those of the defendant. There was also the question of the use of the sign for the defendant's goods.

If it was used as a trade mark, then it was not used as a description. That conclusion might have important implications where a semi-descriptive mark was validly registered. If the defendant's mark was descriptive to some but had trade mark significance to others, he would not be within section 11(2).

His Lordship said that the most important thing was his own impression from the defendants' label and all the surrounding circumstances that the average customer would not see "Treat" used as a trade mark. Where a word was not a fancy word but was highly descriptive there was no reason why a member of the public should take the mark as a badge of origin. The defendant's use of "Treat" was not as a trade mark.

On the counterclaim, his Lordship concluded that there was no evidence that when "Treat" was registered as a trade mark it was distinctive or that the majority of the public regarded the word alone as having some trade mark significance for ice cream toppings. The registration would therefore be declared invalid.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith; Gouldens.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

TROUBLE IN TINSELTOWN

"Hollywood is stunned by the astonishingly graphic accounts of sex, drugs and prostitution involving some of the world's best-known stars"

The **Style** section reports on a new book that is scandalising Hollywood

UNRAVELLING SCOTT

Tomorrow, The Sunday Times presents the most authoritative analysis of the Scott Report, including a four-page pull-out highlighting the crucial passages

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VAT inspectors should give notice of order sought

Regina v City of London Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Asif and Others
Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Forbes
[Judgment February 7]

Where, in the course of an investigation into suspected value-added tax offences, Customs and Excise officials applied to a justice of the peace for an order for the production of documents, pursuant to paragraph 11 of Schedule 11 to the Value Added Tax Act 1994, the application should normally be made inter partes unless there was real reason to believe that an application on notice might result in the loss of material valuable to the investigation. In such cases paragraph 11 enabled an application to be made ex parte.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, in a reserved judgment quashing six orders made by the City of London Magistrates' Court on September 14 and November 1, 1995 requiring the United Bank Ltd, the Allied Bank of Pakistan, and the Habib Bank to give persons authorised by Customs and Excise Commissioners access to all recorded information in the banks' possession concerning Jenice Ltd and the first and second applicants, *Masood Asif and Nasreen Ahkter*, and accounts under their control in the name of the third applicant, Mohamed Bashir, and directing the banks to permit such taking of copies extracts and removal of that recorded information as the authorised person considered necessary. The commissioners had applied ex parte for all the orders.

Mr Michael Birnbaum, QC and Mr Andrew Coleman for the applicants; Mr David Elvin and Mr John Anderson for the commissioners; the magistrates did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that the commissioners recognised that the orders made on September 14 could not stand. As to the later orders, Mr Birnbaum submitted that the commissioners should not have applied for or obtained the orders ex parte and that the orders were so badly worded that they should not stand.

The general proposition derived from the authorities was that the courts, while recognising the needs of investigating authorities, sought to safeguard the interests of individuals liable to be affected by orders by requiring applications to be made inter partes whenever practicable.

Nowhere was it stated that an application under paragraph 11 of Schedule 11 to the 1994 Act could only be made ex parte.

Mr Elvin was unable to point to any provision in any statute which in the absence of express words had been interpreted as requiring applications to be made ex parte and never inter partes.

His Lordship's conclusion was that although paragraph 11 enabled the commissioners to seek orders ex parte they had in each case to consider, and any magistrate to who they applied had also to consider, whether it was appropriate to proceed in that way, bearing in mind that the balance *was always in favour of proceeding* inter partes unless there was real reason to believe that something of value to the investigation might be lost if that course was adopted.

If it was decided to proceed inter partes it would normally be appropriate to give notice of the application not only to those from whom access was sought, in the present case the banks, but also to others who were obviously likely to be directly affected by the order, in the present case the suspects.

Even if the commissioners did not give them notice they would soon learn of the application from *their bank and the object of* proceeding inter partes was best achieved if everyone who had a genuine interest in the proposed order was heard before the order was made.

If in future the decision whether to proceed ex parte was approached in that way, namely on a case by case basis, the legitimate interests of individuals and of institutions against whom orders were sought should be better protected, without hampering the commissioners' task of investigating suspected crime.

While it was unnecessary to dwell on criticisms of the wording of the orders, they were badly worded. In future such orders should be drawn up in clear language easily intelligible by those to whom they were addressed.

Mr Justice Forbes agreed.

Solicitors: Nicholson, Graham & Jones; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Financial status inquiry justified

Regina v Independent Television Commission and Another, Ex parte Virgin Television Ltd and Others
Before Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Turner
[Judgment January 24]

The Independent Television Commission had not acted unlawfully in making inquiries of an applicant for the Channel 5 Licence as to its financial sustainability throughout the period of the licence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing applications by Virgin Television Ltd, UK Television Developments Ltd and New Century Television Ltd for judicial review of the decision of the Independent Television Commission on October 27, 1995 to award the Channel 5 licence to Channel 5 Broadcasting Ltd.

The applicants submitted, inter alia, that the commission had unlawfully and unfairly permitted CSB to increase its shareholders' funding commitment between the date of the application and the award of the licence.

Following the invitation to apply, CSB had submitted a business plan which showed their total shareholders' funding commitment to be £206m. The commission's sensitivity tests showed that a worst case scenario would require funding of £307m and although CSB's application referred to a £101m bank debt facility it was not clear whether that was in addition to the £206m.

Accordingly the commission wrote to seek clarification and it was common ground that it was so entitled.

CSB clarified the position by saying, inter alia, that while there was no contingency beyond the £206m the shareholders remained fully committed and were sure to provide funds in the event of a shortfall. Later, but before the award of the licence, it formally committed its shareholders to further funding of £100m.

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC and Mr Timothy Straker for Virgin; Sir Patrick Neill, QC and Mr Alan Griffiths for NCTV; Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Peter Duffy for UKTV; Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Ms Dinah Rose for the commission; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Robert Hildyard, QC, for CSB.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that the commission was an expert body established under the Broadcasting Act 1990 and was by section 28 of the Act obliged to secure the provision of Channel 5. On November 1, 1994 the commission published its invitation to apply for the Channel 5 licence, the period for which was 10 years.

The closing date for applications was May 2, 1995. Four bids were received; those of the applicants and that of CSB. Both Virgin and CSB placed the same cash bid while that of UKTV was higher and that of NCTV lower. Virgin and UKTV failed the commission's quality threshold and as there were no exceptional circumstances the award was to CSB.

The applicants submitted first that it was clear from CSB's original application that there was no binding commitment from shareholders beyond the £206m contained in the sharehoders' agreement. The statement of intent to support CSB over and above that was expressed in broad terms and accordingly CSB had failed to comply with the statutory application requirements to provide adequate funding information. In those circumstances the commission, they submitted, should have rejected the application.

It was clear, their Lordships said, that for a proposal to satisfy the statutory requirements as amplified by the rules of tender it was not necessary that there should have been a binding commitment in the proposal in respect of the £101m potential funding rising from the worst case scenario.

What there had to have been was an indication of commitment that the necessary funding sufficient to *satisfy the commission would be* achievable by the date of grant of the licence. The commission had clearly been satisfied that that was the case. Accordingly there was no illegality in the commission accepting as compliant the proposal containing the commitment in the form in which it had been.

Their Lordships next turned to consider whether the commission was entitled to take account of the additional £100m provided by CSB's consortium shareholders' agreement.

Under the terms of section 15(4) of the 1990 Act, it was perfectly clear, their Lordships said, that during the period between receipt of the application and the grant of the licence the commission could require an applicant to furnish such additional information as the commission might reasonably require as to the applicant's projected financial position during the period for which the licence would be in force.

The question which had been put was precisely the kind which could have been asked under the section and it was clear that Parliament did not envisage the issue of finacial sustainability of the programme of the licence period being artificially frozen at the date of application any more than the invitation to apply did.

The applicants further contended that there were two limitations on that statutory right: first, those imposed by the terms of the invitation to apply and second, the accepted requirement of fairness between the applicants.

The invitation to apply stated that no amendments nor any new material could be introduced to an application subsequent to its delivery nor would any applicant be allowed to enhance its application once it had been submitted.

Having considered the wording of the invitation their Lordships said that the only limitation on the statutory power to seek further information under section 15(4) related to the *programming proposals*. Answering a request for further information as to the extent and commitment of funding was neither amending the application nor introducing any new material. Any other construction of the invitation to apply would have meant that no requests for further information could be made under section 15(4).

The commission rigorously applied the rules that late received applications or additions to applications were not entertained and that no additions might be made to either the cash bid or the programme proposals. The reason for that was that both those elements *were immediately* publicised and the programme proposals were set out for public ocnsultation. Those parts of the application were therefore frozen as at the date of the application.

Quite different considerations applied to questions of the financial sustainability of the proposed programme. All such matters were confidential between the applicant and the commission. The linked questions of credit-worthiness and commitment were not questions that could ever be answered once and for all time. As they were liable to change, the later the question had to be answered the better the public interest was served.

Turning to the question of the commission's duty to be even handed there was nothing to suggest that CSB were allowed to have their shareholders' additional commitment taken into account because they were treated preferentially, but rather because the rules permitted it.

There was nothing to suggest that the other applicants would not have been similarly treated had they acted as CSB did. Indeed it seemed to their Lordships that had CSB's supplementary shareholders' agreement not been recognised they might have had legitimate cause for legal complaint.

In requiring CSB to satisfy the commission that it would be able to sustain its proposed services during the period of the licence, the commission was doing nor more than it was doing for Virgin.

That was to say that it was satisfying itself that although CSB's application was deficient as to detailed funding beyond their base case, all it required to be satisfied about was that despite the cap on capital commitment in their shareholders' agreement members of the consortium would provide funds to maintain the service for the period of the licence.

Their Lordships perceived that there had been a difference in detail in what *had been required of* each but failed to see that there had been any difference in the principle of what had been required and provided. In those circumstances no question of procedural or other unfairness arose and the *Wednesbury* challenges ([1948] 1 KB 223) to the two decisions of the commission failed.

Solicitors: Campbell Hooper; Herbert Smith; Clifford Chance; Allen & Overy; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

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■ OPINION

Claudia quits, and so do Take That — but another celeb will be along in a minute

■ FILM

London prepares to celebrate the Lumières' first show by recreating the event

THE TIMES ARTS

■ RECORDING

John Mills in *Forever England*, and other new videos and CDs, reviewed in Weekend, page 8

■ ON MONDAY

Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress* in Cardiff: read Rodney Milnes's verdict on the new staging

Fame is a trick you can't pull twice

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

It is never easy to feel sorry for people who are rich, good-looking and famous. And anyway, you don't want to hear about my problems. But let me alert you to a disease that wrecks the lives of hundreds of celebrities every year. Doctors call it *luvvi absurdis deludus*: LAD syndrome for short.

It happens like this. Somebody becomes very famous for possessing, say, gorgeous legs or perfectly-formed buttocks. They usually describe themselves as "actor" or "singer", but this fools nobody. They make buckets of dough. They lunch in Quags with Michael Winner. They ski at Klosters with Fergie. They dance at Annabel's with Andrew Neil. The good life!

But something gnaws at the soul. They are discontented. One day they utter the fateful words, probably to their publicist: "I want people to respect me for my art, not my body." If the publicist is truthful (what a crazy hypothesis!) the response would be: "Tough luck, dearie: perfect buttocks are all you've got." But he doesn't want to offend a meal-ticket that still has a few months to run. So he puts on a concerned voice, nods wisely, and purrs something like: "You're so right; the public would be *amazed* to know the true extent of your talent."

Then, if he is sharp, he begins an immediate search to pluck the next Mr Perfect Torso from the boiler-repair department of British Gas, or wherever. Because he, too, knows that once LAD syndrome hits a celebrity, it is incurable.

These sad thoughts are prompted by the shocking news that Take That, the pop group loved to bits by the toddling classes, have split up. Whole forests have died so that normally sane journalists can analyse the reasons behind the break. But we know why, don't we? LAD syndrome has struck. Four pretty boys have got ideas above their station. They have sensed that there is more to music than getting pre-pubescent girls bewitched, bothered and bewildered. And indeed there is. The Wigmore Hall beckons.

But for the Take That boys the quest to find deeper meaning will almost certainly lead to instant and permanent media oblivion. Already a million little girls' bedrooms across Britain have been redecorated with posters of Boyzone. With the thoroughness of a Stalinist purge all traces of Take That have been erased. They are yesterday's pectorals.

Claudia Schiffer, the world's highest paid model, also announced this week that she is quitting the catwalk. She, too, says that she wants to develop the part that Versace never reaches — her brain. Well, she's a bright lady. But famous? For about another three minutes, if she's lucky.

The problem lies with us, the general public. Our mundane lives are uncertain and muddled. So in our fantasies we want our dreamboats to be clear-cut and simple. We need to know where we stand with them. We want to revere types, not real people. And if our heroes deviate from type, they must be replaced. Otherwise the fantasy is distorted.

The most astute celebrities realise this. "There are two reasons why I'm in show business," Betty Grable once remarked, with delightful candour. "I'm standing on both of them." Such pragmatic survivors ruthlessly eliminate from their public lives anything that contravenes their image. "Remember," Cecil B. De Mille once advised a young starlet, "never go across the alley even to dump garbage unless you are dressed to the teeth."

Look at Ronald Reagan's career: one seamless *persona* impeccably sustained from Hollywood to the White House. Or consider Joan Collins's magnificent performance in court this week. Superb! She could have been on the set of *Dynasty*. Win or lose, she was determined to fulfil the one rule of celebrity survival: stay in character.

Compare that with the unhappy case of the young jazz performer Harry Connick Jnr. He came to fame as the "new Sinatra". Fans flocked to acclaim him. Then he grew restless. LAD syndrome struck. He wanted to "express his individuality", perform his own material. It was good stuff, too. But the same fans walked out in droves. He was no longer the kind of musical hero they needed.

Of course the greatest artists do manage to effect momentous changes in their creative personalities and still grip their public. Vivaldi may have written, as the musical wags have it, "not 600 concertos, but one concerto 600 times". But Stravinsky and Picasso were like chameleons, inventing themselves afresh time and time again. Such was the force of their art that they compelled attention.

That is the difference, though, between towering genius and commonplace celebrity. And in show business, celebrity is as tenuously linked to genius as expediency is to morality in the political arena. Which, translated into plain English, means that there's an awful lot of hogwash around.

But you will have to excuse me now. I hear that Gaultier is looking for a new male supermodel, and colleagues assure me that the public would be *amazed* to know the true extent of my physical allure. I'm ready for my close-up, Lord Lichfield.

A century of Lumière fantastic

David Robinson reports on the celebrations in Bradford and London of 100 years of cinema

One hundred years ago next week, the Lumière *cinématographe* arrived in London. The event is to be commemorated in style in the very location where the first shows took place, the Regent Street Polytechnic — today part of the University of Westminster.

The old Poly was the ideal place to demonstrate such a scientific novelty. The apogee of those uniquely Victorian institutions dedicated to popular education and the encouragement of scientific discovery, it was established in 1838. Its particular glory was its magic-lantern entertainments. The projectors were the most elaborate ever devised, with sophisticated mechanisms for dissolving and superimposing images, and for giving the illusion of movement. The slides were painted by talented artists, and special lantern presentations, such as the Christmas pantomimes and a lecture on the Crimean War, were reviewed in the theatrical columns of newspapers.

On Thursday February 20, 1896, a show was held for the press in the Great Hall; and on the Friday public screenings began, every hour from 2pm to 10pm. The programme consisted of ten or 12 films selected from a larger repertoire, with *Arrival of a Train* and *Baby's Breakfast* the favourites. Only 54 people attended on the opening day, which is perhaps why the shows were moved into the Poly's smaller Marlborough Hall after three days.

Business soon picked up, however, and on March 9 the shows moved to the Empire, Leicester Square — where films are still shown today.

The Poly celebrations begin on Monday with a presentation of a Victorian magic-lantern entertainment. On Tuesday, the Prince of Wales will attend a recreation of the original Lumière show of 1896; and the following day the public will be able to see the same programme for the original 1896 admission price of one shilling (5p).

While London celebrates the French pioneers, the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television in Bradford proclaims British achievement with its ambitiously staged exhibition *Magic Behind the Screen — A Century of British Cinema*. The British pioneers Birt Acres and Robert W. Paul, who were neck and neck with the Lumières — and even ahead of them, as the first cinematographers to film topical events (the Boat Race and the Derby of 1895) — are given due prominence.

Time machine: the Lumière *cinématographe*; and (right) the Regent Street Polytechnic, site of the first shows

The Bradford exhibition, which runs until June 23, goes on to recall later triumphs of British cinema, including Ealing and Hammer, coming up to date with costumes from Merchant-Ivory features and the Mig 29 from *Goldeneye*.

The National Film Archive and the National Film Theatre collaborate on a notable centenary venture. The archive's entire holdings of Victorian films, 600 titles, all made before the end of 1900, will be screened in a series of shows each Wednesday throughout February and March.

The era may be remote, with its horse-drawn traffic, long skirts and silk hats, military parades and street shows, yet through these little films we can feel a curious intimacy with people from long ago. When they gaze curiously into the lens of the unfamiliar and inquisitive machine, they look directly into our eyes. The cinema is revealed as the ultimate time machine.

- *University of Westminster, 309 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-911 5050)*
- *National Museum of Photography, Film & Television, Pictureville, Bradford BD1 1NQ (01274-727488)*
- *National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 8XT (0171-928 3232)*

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

SUSAN PARRY

Profession: Singer, mezzo.

What makes her stand out? Besides being 6ft tall, Parry is singing Wagner for the ENO at the uncommonly young age of 32. She is Brangäne, commonly played by sopranos, in David Alden's new and hugely acclaimed *Tristan and Isolde*.

The critics on Parry: She has been greeted as a performer of deep intensity, a Brangane "invested with the burden of Isolde's anguish".

Parry on the part: "It's a very demanding, energetic production. I look angst-ridden from beginning to end."

Ancestors in the arts? Not at all. Her Welsh father worked in the ball-bearing industry. But her mother had a voice. She turned down a job with the Black and White Minstrels. Parry's infant school teacher, believing her pupil might be musical, dedicated her evenings to teaching her the violin. Then the county music advisor spotted her talent on a school visit. By ten, Parry was attending London's Trinity College of Music on Saturdays then became a Junior Exhibitioner at the Royal College of Music as a violinist and pianist. Then studied music at Birmingham University, where she had her first singing lesson.

Seen her before? Began with Welsh National Opera and was the Coliseum's kitchen boy (one of many male roles) in this season's *Rusalka*.

What next? Octavian in the ENO's *Der Rosenkavalier*.

At home: "I live with my two labradors in Luton. Am very heart-on-sleeve. Cry at Lassie films. I like talking so much, which is not good for the voice. I also get barred from parties."

KATE BASSETT

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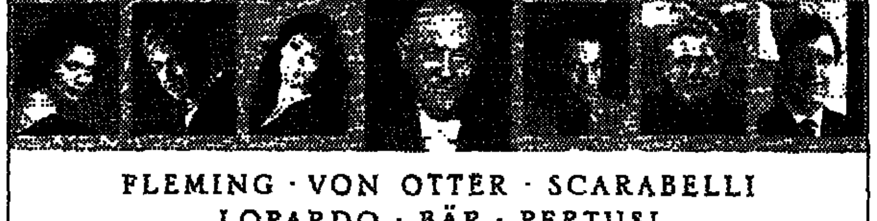

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Sun 18 Feb 8.00 **Ensemble Modern play Frank Zappa** Music from The Yellow Shark; Studies 5, 6, 7 by Nancarrow, & Deserts by Zappa's inspiration Edgar Varese, accompanied by a stunning projection by video artist Bill Viola. £24 - £16

Wed 21 Feb 7.30 **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** London International Orchestral Season. Lorin Maazel (cond). Julian Rachlin (vln) Sibelius: Finlandia; Violin Concerto; Bartók: Concerto for Orchestra. £46 - £8

Thu 22 Feb 7.30 **Menuhin conducts Tchaikovsky** Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra. Natasha Lomeiko (vln) Tchaikovsky: Romeo & Juliet; Violin Concerto; Symphony No.5. £25 - £5

Fri 23 Feb 7.30 **The London Philharmonic** Resident at the RFH. Sergiu Comissiona (cond) Anne Akiko Meyers (vln) Haydn: Sym No.90; Saint-Saëns: Havanaise; Introduction & rondo capriccioso; Mendelssohn: Sym No.3 (Scottish). £12, £5

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Walton Belshazzar's Feast**

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Mon 19 Feb 7.45 **Alban Berg Quartet** RFH Associate Artists. International Chamber Music Season. 25th Anniversary Season Gala Concert. Mozart: String Quartet, K.421: String Quartet, K.387; Schnittke: String Quartet No.4. £20 - £10

Tue 20 Feb 7.45 **Mostly Mozart Concerto Festival** London Soloists Chamber Orchestra. David Josefowitz (cond) Aaron Shorr (pno). Works by Mozart, Schubert, Schubert/Liszt £15 - £7

Thu 22 Feb 7.45 **Aziza Mustafa Zadeh** Jazz from Azerbaijan. The young pianist Aziza Mustafa Zadeh has amazingly absorbed the influences of Chick Corea and Miles Davis into the intoxicating rhythms of her homeland. £12.50 - £7.50

Fri 23 Feb 8.00 **Tribal Music of Iran — Neyriz Ensemble.** Master folk musicians play music from north & south-west Iran inc tribal songs of the Bakhtiari & Gilaki. Outstanding folk singers, Nasser Massoudi, Faraj Alipour & Bajalavand. £25 - £10

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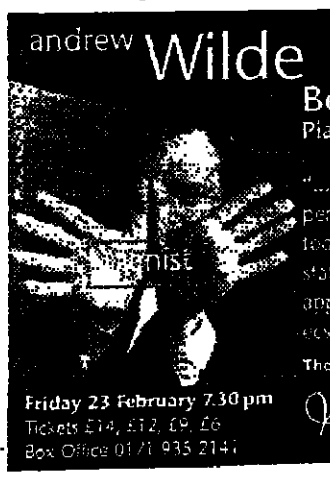
Mon 19 Feb 7.30pm	OLAF BAR baritone HELMUT DEUTSCH piano. Insight Concert. Olaf Bär & Helmut Deutsch discuss and explore aspects of interpretation and performance of the songs Schubert wrote between 1818 & 1824 with two young Lieder singers. £9, £7 (students £5)	Gramophone Awards Winners
Thurs 22 Feb 7.30pm	ISABELLE FAUST violin; EWA KUPIEC piano Mozart: Sonata in A K526 Bartók: Sonata No.1 (1921); C. Franck: Sonata in A (1886) Sponsored by N.W.Brown and Company £13, £11, £9, £6	Hazard Chase Ltd
Fri 23 Feb 7.30pm	ANDREW WILDE piano Beethoven: Sonata in C Op.2 No.3; Sonata in A flat Op.110; Sonata in F Op.54; Sonata in F minor Op.57 *Appassionata* £14, £12, £9, £6	Kantor Concert Management Ltd



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SATURDAY 24 FEBRAURY AT 7.30PM

MONTEVERDI VESPERS
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with authentic instruments *Conductor:* LEON-LOVETT
£15, £12, £8 (concs) St James's Box Office: 0171-437 5053

Barbican Centre

Sat 17 Feb 7.30pm

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Ilya Musin *conductor*
Mozart Symphony No 40
Prokofiev *Symphony No 1 Classical*
Rimsky-Korsakov Capriccio Espagnol
£5, £10, £16, £21, £27

Sun 18 Feb 7.30pm

London Symphony Orchestra
Bruckner Mozart Series Sir Colin Davis *conductor*
Mozart Symphony No 39 in E flat, K543
Bruckner Symphony No 5 £6 - £30 Bruckner Mozart Series in association with The Sunday Times and supported by BBC Music Magazine. For series brochure phone 0171-588 0205

Fri 23 Feb 7.30pm

English Chamber Orchestra with Heinz Holliger *conductor/oboe*
Arthur Honegger Pastorale d'été
Richard Strauss Oboe Concerto
Beethoven Symphony No I
£8, £11, £15, £19.50 Sponsored by Cable & Wireless

Sat 24 Feb 8.00pm

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC
PLAYS CLASSIC FAVOURITES
ANTHONY INGLIS cond. **SARAH BETH BRIGGS** piano
Rossini Overture, *Barber of Seville*
Schubert Symphony No 8, *Unfinished*
Mozart Piano Concerto No 21, *Elvira Madigan*
Beethoven Symphony No 3 *Eroica*
£9.50, £14.50, £19.50, £22.50, £25.50
Raymond Gubbay Ltd in assoc. with The Daily Telegraph

Fri 1 Mar 7.30pm

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Following Sell Out concerts 16 & 24 Jan, 21, 22 & 29 Feb, series continues with
EXTRA CONCERT BY POPULAR DEMAND
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Mozart Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola, K364
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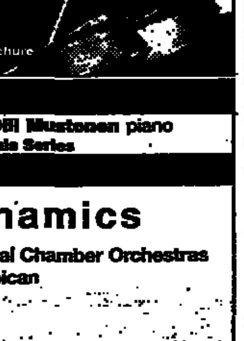
Dmitri Vassiliev violin



Series continues 13 Mar.
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Sun 3 Mar 4.00pm

Steven Isserlis cello **Olli Mustonen** piano
Barbican Celebrity Recitals Series

Mon 4 Mar 7.30pm

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Barbara Bonney *soprano*
Haydn symphonies, concert and opera arias.
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Mozart Festival Orchestra

Thurs 14 March	Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham	0115 948 2626
Sat 16 March	Barbican Centre, London	0171 638 8891
Sun 17 March	Corn Exchange, Cambridge	01223 357851
Tues 19 March	Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool	0151 709 3789
Thurs 21 [illegible]	Symphony Hall, Birmingham	0121 212 3333
Fri 22 March	Dome Brighton	01273 709709
Sat 23 March	Guildhall, Portsmouth	01705 824355
Sun 24 March	International Centre Bournemouth	01202 297297
Tues 26 March	City Hall Sheffield	0114 273 5295
Wed 27 March	Free Trade Hall, Manchester	0161 834 1712
Thurs 28 March	Fairfield Hall, Croydon	0181 688 9291
Sun 31 March	Hexagon, Reading	01734 591591

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 7.45pm
Schubert Overture in the Italian style in C
Mozart Serenata Notturna
Paul Barker Concerto for Violin and Orchestra
Vaughan Williams The Lark Ascending
Mendelssohn Symphony No 4 in A 'Italian'
MATTHIAS BAMERT CONDUCTOR
TASMIN LITTLE VIOLIN
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London Concert Orchestra
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7	Mar	BLACKBURN King's George's Hall	01254 582582
9	Mar	YORK Barbican	01904 656688
11	Mar	NOTTINGHAM Royal Concert Hall	0115 948 2626
12	Mar	SOUTHEND Cliff's Pavilion	01702 351135
13	Mar	SOUTHEND Cliff's Pavilion	01702 351135
14	Mar	CROYDON Fairfield Hall	0181 688 9291
15	Mar	GUILDFORD Civic Hall	01483 444555
16	Mar	CARDIFF St David's Hall	01222 878444
17	Mar	SWANSEA Grand Theatre	01792 475715
19	Mar	LEEDS Grand Theatre	0113 245 9351
20	Mar	BRISTOL Colston Hall	0117 922 3682
21	Mar	PLYMOUTH Pavilions	01752 229922
22	Mar	TORQUAY Princess Theatre	01803 290290
23	Mar	BOURNEMOUTH International Centre	01202 297297
24	Mar	SOUTHAMPTON Mayflower Theatre	01703 711811
26	Mar	WATFORD Colosseum	01923 445000
27	Mar	BRIGHTON Dome Theatre	01273 709709
29	Mar	TUNBRIDGE WELLS Assembly Halls	01892 530613
30	Mar	MARGATE Winter Gardens	01843 292795
1	Apr	READING Hexagon	01734 591591
2	Apr	PORTSMOUTH Guildhall	01705 824355
3	Apr	OXFORD Apollo Theatre	01865 244544
5	Apr	ISLE OF WIGHT Sandown Pavilion	01983 402295
6	Apr	ISLE OF WIGHT Sandown Pavilion	01983 402295
8	Apr	CAMBRIDGE Corn Exchange	01223 357851
9	Apr	PETERBOROUGH Cresset	01733 265705
10	Apr	SKEGNESS Embassy	01754 768333
11	Apr	HULL City Hall	01482 226655
13	Apr	BRADFORD St George's Hall	01274 752000
14	Apr	MANCHESTER Palace Theatre	0161 242 2503
15	Apr	SHEFFIELD City Hall	0114 273 5295
16	Apr	SCARBOROUGH Futurist Theatre	01723 374500
17	Apr	MIDDLESBROUGH Town Hall	01642 242561
18	Apr	SUNDERLAND Empire Theatre	0191 514 2517
20	Apr	GLASGOW Royal Concert Hall	0141 227 5511
21	Apr	ABERDEEN Capitol Theatre	01224 583141
22	Apr	INVERNESS Eden Court Theatre	01463 221718
23	Apr	INVERNESS Eden Court Theatre	01463 221718
24	Apr	EDINBURGH Usher Hall	0131 228 1155
25	Apr	NEWCASTLE City Hall	0191 261 2606
27	Apr	CARLISLE Sands Centre	01228 25222
28	Apr	LIVERPOOL Empire Theatre	0151 709 1555
29	Apr	DONCASTER Dome Theatre	01302 370999
30	Apr	LEICESTER De Montfort Hall	0116 233 3111
1	May	BIRMINGHAM Symphony Hall	0121 212 3333
3	May	DARTFORD Orchard Theatre	01322 220000
4	May	DARTFORD Orchard Theatre	01322 220000
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RANGE ROVER

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ART GALLERIES

ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS
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27 Feb - 02 Mar	PAIGNTON Festival	01803 558641
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12 Mar - 17 Mar	TUNBRIDGE WELLS Assembly Hall	01892 530613
27 Mar - 31 Mar	MANCHESTER Palace Theatre	0161 242 2503
03 Apr - 07 Apr	PRESTON Guild Hall	01772 258858
[illegible]		
17 Apr - 21 Apr	BOURNEMOUTH Pavilion Theatre	01202 297297
24 Apr - 28 Apr	GUILDFORD Spectrum	01483 443333
01 May - 05 May	BRISTOL Colston Hall	0117 922 3686
08 May - 12 May	DARTFORD Orchard	01322 220000
15 May - 19 May	NORTHAMPTON Derngate Theatre	01604 24811
22 May - 26 May	BRIGHTON Centre	01273 202881
[illegible]		
05 June - 09 June	IPSWICH Regent Theatre	01473 281480
12 June - 16 June	OXFORD Apollo Theatre	01865 244544
19 June - 23 June	HIGH WYCOMBE Swan Theatre	01494 512000
26 June - 30 June	LIVERPOOL Empire Theatre	0151 709 1555
03 July - 07 July	LEEDS Grand Theatre	0113 245 9351
17 July - 21 July	LEICESTER De Montfort Hall	0116 233 3111
24 July - 28 July	SUNDERLAND Empire Theatre	0191 514 2517
31 July - 04 Aug	NORWICH Theatre Royal	01603 630000
14 Aug - 18 Aug	GLASGOW Royal Concert Hall	0141 227 5511

ART GALLERIES

DUNCAN CAMPBELL 15 Thackeray St, W8. ROWLAND HILDER (1905-93). Watercolours & Etchings to 1 March. 0171 937 8665

"MATERIAL REAL". New Visions of Fine Art by Jonathan Wills, Rob Matthews, Emily Allchurch, Emma Horne and Stuart Kelly. 21 February - 15 March at The Gallery, KIAD, Fort Pitt, Rochester, Kent. 01634 830022.

NATIONAL PRINT EXHIBITION, MALL GALLERIES, The Mall (Nr. Admiralty Arch) London SW1 until 24th February, 10-5 daily, £2 (£1 concs). Most works for sale. Tel. 0171-930 6844.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Today 2.30 & 7.30 THE MAGIC FLUTE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day The Royal Opera Mon 7.00 (First Night) SEMELE Wed 7.30 AIDA The Royal Ballet Ton't, Fri 7.30 Ashton's RHAPSODY/NEW HART BALLET/NEW PAGE PAS DE DEUX/ MacMillan's THE INVITATION Tue, Thur (Last Night) 7.30 THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal **SUNSET BOULEVARD** Winner of 7 Tony Awards including **BEST MUSICAL** Starring PETULA CLARK 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0171 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded information 0171 379 8884 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444/420 0000. 3 WEEKS ONLY! **THE LONG & THE SHORT & THE TALL** by Willis Hall "a stirring, chilling evening" D. Ml Eves 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 5

ALDWYCH 416 6048/344 4444 420 0000 PETER BOWLES DEBORAH CAROLINE GRANT LANGRISHE in Noel Coward's Classic Comedy **PRESENT LAUGHTER** RED PRICED PREVS FROM WED PRESS NIGHT FEB 27 AT 7 Mon-Sat 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 4

APOLLO 494 5069/344 4444/420 0000. Eves 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 & 8.15 HAYLEY MILLS "Magnificent" F.T. JENNY SEAGROVE "Impeccable" Times **DEAD GUILTY** "Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER" S Times RECORD-BREAKING RUN EXTENDED TO MARCH 16

APOLLO LABATTS HAMMERSMITH 0171 416 6055 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee) "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER & TIM RICE'S BLOCKBUSTER" Gdn **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** starring PHILLIP SCHOFIELD FEB 22 - APR 28 Tue-Sat 7.30, Mats Thu, Sat 3.00 ...Riverdance returns 16 May...

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail Whilst Icarcida runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 **FAME** THE MUSICAL "FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday "BREATHTAKING!" Independent Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

CHICESTER FESTIVAL Until Sat 17th Feb CONDUCT UNBECOMING "Hypnotic" Eve. Standard BOOK ON 01243 781312

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no bkg fee) **ZOE WANAMAKER in THE GLASS MENAGERIE** by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS Directed by Sam Mendes Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00 LIMITED SEASON

CRITERION B/O 0171 369 1747 THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE CO Opens March 5

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200 **GREASE** Starring RICHARD CALKIN and SAMANTHA JANUS "Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL 58 cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 6000 **MISS SAIGON** "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/420 0000 (bkg fee) 0171-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 "A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std NOW IN ITS 5th YEAR **DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER** "Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 0171 836 5122/5837 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (24hrs, no fee) ROYAL COURT CLASSICS David Storey's Classic Sporting Celebration **THE CHANGING ROOM** "a miracle of the theatre" S. Times FOR 7 WEEKS ONLY Eves 7.30, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/0171 312 8033 DAVID BURKE ANDREW HAVILL Susan Hill's **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "A real thrill of horror" S.Times NOW IN ITS 8TH YEAR Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm

FORTUNE Cov.Gdn 0171 836 2238 "Astonishing Performance" BBC ELIZABETH MANSFIELD as **MARIE** Olivier Awards 1996 EVERY SUNDAY 3.30pm

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/ 0171 312 1990 (no bkg fee) Some Experiences You Never Forget WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS The Royal National Theatre production JB Priestley's **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** "THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail "ONE OF THE MOST INTOXICATING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990s" Eve.Stand "TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D.Tel Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

GIELGUD 494 5065/344 4444 /420 0000 TOM CONTI SHARON GLESS in NEIL SIMON'S **CHAPTER TWO** RED PRICE PREVS NOW! Mon - Fri 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 & 8.15

HAYMARKET 930 8800 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) THE PETER HALL COMPANY Martin Shaw Anna Carteret Penny Downie David Yelland Michael Denison Dulcie Gray OSCAR WILDE'S **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Eves 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 16 WEEKS ONLY "GREAT & GLORIOUS" S. Times

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/930 6123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO DEC 96 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 420 0200 "A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail **OLIVER!** 2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR "LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15, Mon 7.15 MOTHER COURAGE & HER CHILDREN Bertolt Brecht in a new version by David Hare LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30 WILD OATS John O'Keeffe. Mon 7.30 THE WAY OF THE WORLD William Congreve COTTESLOE Today 1.30 & 7.00 (LAST PERFS) RICHARD II William Shakespeare

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL **CATS** Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 6655/312 8034 "ALAN BENNETT'S SUPERB ADAPTATION" F.T. The Royal National Theatre's **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** "AN IRRESISTABLE PIECE OF THEATRE" LNR "A wonderful evening" F.T. "AN ABSOLUTE WINNER" Time Out Now Booking to 30th March 1996 Mon - Sat 7.30pm Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL **LES MISERABLES** NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) **BEST MUSICAL** Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards WILLY RUSSELL'S **BLOOD BROTHERS** STEPHANIE LAWRENCE STEFAN DENNIS CARL WAYNE "...brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321 "WINNER!" **BEST MUSICAL** Evening Standard Award '95 **BEST MUSICAL** BEST ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL Caroline O'Connor '96 Olivier Award Nominations Jerry Michael Herman & Stewart's **MACK & MABEL** THE HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE Mon-Sat at 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00 Now Booking to 28 September

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444 SYLVIA SYMS HENRY McGEE LYNDA BARON RAY COONEY TREVOR BANNISTER PETER ELLIS RON ALDRIDGE & RODNEY BEWES IN RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT **FUNNY MONEY** NOMINATED BEST COMEDY 1996 OLIVIER AWARDS "LAUGHS GALORE... A WINNER" D. Exp "Better than Feydeau... priceless" D. Tel Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) First Call 420 0100 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123. BEST MUSICAL Laurence Olivier Awards 93 **CRAZY FOR YOU** Eves 7.45, Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK **MUST END 24 FEB**

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 (24hr Bkg fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 Cameron Mackintosh presents **MARTIN GUERRE** A New Musical by BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG FROM 22 MAY 1996

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) BARBICAN: LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS Today 2.00 & 7.15 THE PIT: SLAUGHTER CITY Today 2.00 & 7.15 STRATFORD (01789 295623) RST & SWAN: THE WINTER VISITORS' SEASON Ends 10 April

SAVOY 0171-836 8888 cc 0171 420 0100 (no bkg fee) **ANGELA THORNE COMMUNICATING DOORS** by ALAN AYCKBOURN Nominated Best Comedy Olivier Awards 1996 "A MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THRILLER WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY" D.Tel "with the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT" Independent Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 344 4444 (24hr/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321 **TOMMY** PAUL KEATING as Tommy KIM WILDE as Mrs Walker "AN ENTERTAINMENT JUGGERNAUT THAT LIFTS THE AUDIENCE RIGHT OUT OF ITS SEATS" NY Times FROM 20 FEB. Mon-Sat 8pm, Wed & Sat 3pm

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1994 (no bkg fee) Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 44th Year of Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 930 6123 **"BUDDY"** The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun **"BUDDY"** "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel **"BUDDY"** Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30, Suns 4.00 ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF 7th HEAVENLY YEAR

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (no bkg fee) "For a sparkling, affectionate and hilarious evening in the theatre, go and see The RSC production of **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE**" The Times LAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO NATIONAL TOUR Mon-Fri 8.00pm Sat 8.30pm Mats Wed 2.30pm Sat 5.30pm

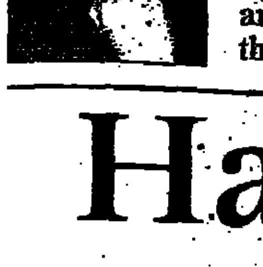
VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (no bkg fee) PETER GREENWELL "The best Noel Coward since Noel Coward" Alan Jay Lerner **A TALENT TO AMUSE** The Words & Music of Noel Coward From 27 Feb for 5 weeks only

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1996/497 9977 Groups 0171 312 1997 (no fee) /0171 930 6123 (bkg fee) 1996 OLIVIER AWARDS Nominations **"JOLSON"** BEST MUSICAL • BRIAN CONLEY BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL • JOHN BENNETT BEST SUPPORTING ARTISTE IN A MUSICAL **"JOLSON"** "Worth walking a million miles to see" D.Mail Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 NOW BOOKING TO 28th SEPT

WHITEHALL 369 1735/344 4444/ 420 0000 "BEST NEW MUSICAL IN TOWN...BRILLIANT" MoS **ROY ORBISON STORY** GUEST-STARRING P.J. PROBY ½ PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF Tues-Thu 8, Fri, Sat 5.30 & 8.30, Sun 4 LAST 4 WEEKS OF RECORD-BREAKING RUN

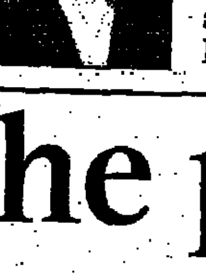
WYNDHAMS 0171 369 1736 (no bkg fee) /344 4444 (bkg fee) Nominated for 5 Olivier Awards MICHAEL GAMBON LIA WILLIAMS **SKYLIGHT** by DAVID HARE Directed by RICHARD EYRE The Royal National Theatre production for a limited season until 27 April Mon-Sat 8.00 Mat Sat 3.00

هكذا من الأصل



■ MUSICALS

How Des McAnuff brought *The Who's Tommy* to Broadway, and now into the West End



■ BASE NOTES

Is *The Horse Whisperer* with Robert Redford next on the agenda for Emma Thompson?

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTES

Chess, Tim Rice's collaboration with the Abba boys, hits the road on its tenth anniversary

■ BASE NOTES

. . . and it's *The Tempest* performed in Regent's Park for Denis Quilley this summer

Hand the pinball crown to him

The Broadway hit *The Who's Tommy* opens here soon. **Matt Wolf** meets the man who made it all possible

MARTIN BEDDALL

Des McAnuff, the director of *The Who's Tommy*, opened the door to stage success for a rock opera that had previously only really lived on record

The New York success of *The Who's Tommy*, which arrives in London next week, altered the face of Broadway in several ways. At the time, Broadway was reaching out to embrace new and different material — and, with it, an audience uninterested in (or unaware of) the latest offering from Andrew Lloyd Webber, Cy Coleman, or Stephen Sondheim. *Tommy*, Pete Townshend's landmark 1969 rock opera, provided the material to attract that audience.

Running for more than two years, the $6 million show won five Tony Awards, and succeeded in winning over a group of theatregoers who might have been expected to put up the most resistance: the critics. Frank Rich, then the *New York Times*'s much-feared chief critic, wrote: "The show is so theatrically fresh and emotionally raw that newcomers to *Tommy* will think it was born yesterday."

Perhaps only the advancing years of many Tony voters kept it from winning the top prize, Best Musical. That went instead to *Kiss of the Spider Woman* — a product of exactly the old school (director Hal Prince, composer-lyricists John Kander and Freb Ebb) that *The Who's Tommy* leaves behind.

Townshend's pulsating music, the soundtrack to a troubled era that sounds no less urgent a quarter of a century on, was by no means the production's lone attraction. Stage versions of *Tommy* have been tried before, including one in the West End co-produced by the Who themselves, with Allan Love as the messianic Tommy, but never with lasting success.

The version that opens next week, starring Paul Keating as the deaf, dumb and blind kid and Kim Wilde as his mother, should change all that.

On Broadway, the music and story were bolstered by a spectacular staging that coupled theatrical sleight-of-hand — 54 projectors were trained on 18 panels at the rear of the stage — with real emotional bite: What could have been no more than an ear-splitting song cycle became a dynamic, through-sung play about the coming to maturity of an emotionally scarred child.

> ❛ Our version is a more thoughtful look at what *Tommy* was about ❜

Of the evening's many participants, it is possible the show's director and co-librettist Des McAnuff may be its real star. Without him, *Tommy* might have been just another gimmick, a *Buddy* or *Beatlemania* to which nostalgic audiences could sing along, and then forget.

The Who's Tommy pushed McAnuff to the front of that list of directors who can be entrusted with a major musical, and it brought him a second Tony for Best Director to set alongside his 1985 win for *Big River*, a musical adaptation of *Huckleberry Finn* that was probably too American ever to receive a major London production.

Last season, he was again up for a Tony (he lost to Hal Prince's *Show Boat*) for his revival of Frank Loesser's *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which begins its second year on Broadway next month.

But the heart of McAnuff's musical education beats, not in traditional Broadway fare, but in the likes of Townshend's super-loud pop. The hash-smoking adolescent growing up in Canada "grew up listening to rock'n'roll, rhythm and blues. I first saw Bob Dylan play when I was 11".

McAnuff, 43, who was raised in the town of Guelph, some 40 miles from Toronto, and studied theatre at Ryerson, a Toronto polytechnic. "The musical seemed very foreign to me," he says. "It wasn't until *Hair* came along that I really thought that maybe there was room in the theatre for music I liked."

Tommy had an obvious allure at the time, although McAnuff argues that the album has since been misunderstood. "A lot of people, including me, first listened to the album when they were high. I was in a band called Isaac, we were rehearsing at our roadies' place, and a guy named Dennis Butt had bought the album. People get the idea that *Tommy* was this kind of pro-drug thing when, in fact, it was completely the opposite; Townshend had quit drugs. Our stage version is a much more thoughtful look at what it was about."

The idea to put *Tommy* back on stage appealed to McAnuff as a way to reinvigorate a genre — the musical — constantly said to be dying. "I wanted to bring to the theatre the music I play and listen to, which, for the most part, is electric music, from zydeco to be-bop.

"It has always struck me as peculiar that the only music that tends to flourish in the theatre comes out of the music of 40 or 50 years ago. While other people, the Canadian Ballet included, had taken the album and maybe done things with it, no one had done it with Pete Townshend's co-operation; there were a lot of unofficial versions of *Tommy*."

McAnuff launched the new show at the La Jolla Playhouse in southern California, the enterprising regional theatre of which he was artistic director from 1983 to 1994. Indeed, all four of his Broadway forays — the other is the Lee Blessing two-hander *A Walk in the Woods*, later seen on the West End in a different production with Alec Guinness — began at the non-profit Playhouse. Broadway, McAnuff insists, was never a goal. (He and Ray Davies of the Kinks collaborated on a musical, *80 Days*, that has yet to travel beyond California.)

As *Tommy* headed east, some objected to a new ending that brings the second act to an emotional climax in keeping with the supposedly kinder, gentler 1990s. Didn't the emphasis on family reconciliation sell short both the Who and the incendiary times that spawned *Tommy*?

McAnuff smiles wryly: "Basically, Tommy has a sadistic, abusive cousin. His uncle is an alcoholic child abuser. He watches his father shoot his mother's lover before his eyes — it's a very normal family which, as far as I can tell, has very little to do with what Bill Clinton or Dan Quayle would describe as family values."

The criticism that the piece has been softened "is somewhat of a kneejerk reaction," McAnuff says. "People want Tommy to get killed at the end: they have it in their minds that Tommy dies, which of course is not true.

"The show is about someone's journey towards a kind of enlightenment, so there's a resolution at the end. It's about a spiritual release that happens on stage every evening."

● *Previews of* The Who's Tommy *begin on Tuesday at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London WC2 (0171-379 5399). The show opens on March 5*

BASE NOTES

Horse play for Emma?

WHAT next for **Emma Thompson**? If she pulls off a unique Oscar double by winning both the Best Actress and the Best Screenplay awards for *Sense and Sensibility* she will be the hottest female property in Hollywood since the prime of Miss Meryl Streep. Thompson's name is now being linked with another hot British property: **Nicholas Evans**'s novel, *The Horse Whisperer*. Having bought the film rights for $3 million, **Robert Redford** is said to be seeking a classy co-star. And who classier than our Emma?

● SO YOU thought you had seen the last of *Chess*, the "Cold War" musical written by **Sir Tim Rice** and the chaps from **Abba**? We are not even into the endgame, it seems. The pawns are advancing again, this time on a eight-month British tour that will mark the musical's tenth anniversary. Eighteen venues will be visited, beginning in Dartford on March 25.

● BRAVING the elements in Regent's Park this summer will be **Denis Quilley**. He will play Prospero in the Open Air Theatre's production of *The Tempest*: a play to tempt fate, if ever there was one. Also in the Regent's Park programme will be a new staging of *Paint Your Wagon*. The Lerner and Loewe musical has not been seen on the professional London stage since 1953.

● CLASSICAL music's most coveted award, the Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal, has been awarded to the American composer **Elliott Carter** and the Czech conductor, **Rafael Kubelik**. Kubelik's father, the violinist and composer Jan Kubelik, was a recipient of the award in 1902.

● WHILE **Paul McCartney**'s Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts seizes all the media limelight, its older rival in the "Fame School" market — the BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology — has quietly been finding itself a high-powered new principal. She is **Clare Venables**, the director who has run a string of theatres over the past 25 years, most recently the Crucible in Sheffield. She is currently directing *Kiss Me Kate* at the new Norwich Playhouse.

The BRIT School, which opened in Croydon five years ago, is funded by the record industry and the government. "Performing arts should be treated seriously, and it is a privilege for me to be going somewhere where that is recognised," Venables says.

CONCERTS: An extended banquet of one of Chopin's Parisian contemporaries. Plus Järvi displays his growing authority as a conductor

Come into my study

Jack Gibbons
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Nobody who wrote a march on the death of a parrot for choir and woodwind can be all bad. And Charles-Valentin Alkan, virtuoso and recluse, wrote a lot more beside. So much so that the Queen Elizabeth Hall must have heard more notes in a single evening than in any representative month when Jack Gibbons presented a packed house with the first London performance of all 12 of Alkan's *Etudes*, Op 39.

But when is an Etude not an Etude? When it is a symphony or a concerto, no less. Alkan knew Chopin well enough in the Paris of the 1830s, and paid tribute to his ornamental phraseology in many a more hushed or hyperactive moment. But in Alkan's case, four Etudes make a symphony and three more make a concerto. And the opening "movement" of his concerto is longer than the entire span of many others.

What made this three-hour, tripartite concert bearable was the performing personality of Gibbons — though I have to admit that I conceded defeat and departed two-thirds of the way through: my receiving apparatus, blasted for two hours, had simply given up. Gibbons has lived with the music of Alkan since the age of 14, giving the first Oxford performance of the monumental Concerto when he was 16.

Not only does he possess both the stamina and a technique prodigious enough to master everything the music requires, but he scrupulously respects Alkan's own insistence on clarity, precision and control — with virtually no rubato — in this most hugely romantic of music. And when one is feeling battered to death by those obsessive rhythms, clangorous pedal points, spiralling sequences and banal melodies, Gibbons ties it all up with aplomb and beams at the audience like a small boy, delighted with every minute of it and ready, I dare say, to start all over again.

Gibbons empathises, too, with the naivety which suddenly smiles at the heart of Alkan's writing: a moment of harmonic delight, a sudden window opening on to a fragment of a chorale, a passage in sugar-spun thirds which lasts just long enough to be truly ingenuous.

He helped us through the Symphony by abstracting its several themes with evident glee. He wooed us at the start with an eager, child-like performance of the whirlwind which is *Comme le vent* and, I am sure, will have given his generous and imaginative all to the final set of 25 Aesop fable variations, *Le Festin d'Esope*. I hope someone took him out to a banquet with as many courses afterwards.

HILARY FINCH

In all the colours of experience

CBSO/Paavo Järvi
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

After his first concert with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Paavo Järvi might have been surprised by his appointment as principal guest conductor but not too worried about it. Now everything has changed. His three-year contract begins next season, which means that he will still be in place when Sir Simon Rattle goes. Järvi will have an important role in sustaining continuity.

He is not likely to be intimidated by the responsibility, however. His authority has developed considerably since his last concert in Symphony Hall 18 months ago — during which time he has taken up appointments as chief conductor of the Malmö Symphony Orchestra and as principal guest conductor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra — and, besides, he will always have the good advice of his father, Neeme Järvi, who was principal guest conductor of the CBSO in the early 1980s.

There are likenesses between the two, but Paavo has his own precise and economical from-the-wrist baton technique and his own personality. If he seems to be disproportionately concerned by the colour and quality of the orchestral sound, it is not at the expense of rhythmic interest. His account of Mozart's Symphony No 28 in C, K200, was certainly pretty in sound, and there was just an occasional inclination to linger, but it was disciplined in ensemble and lacked little in vitality.

The major challenge was Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony, a score which Järvi conducts from memory and to which he brings an admirably fresh approach. Some of the colouring, particularly in the first movement, was so sensational that, by ordinary standards, it seemed excessive. In fact, he did nothing which is not actually prescribed by the composer. If other conductors make less of what is written, it is probably in the belief — which this interpretation tended to confirm — that if they touch on the extremes at too early a stage, the rest of the work will seem tame. Happily, on this occasion there was enough rhythmic energy in reserve and enough imagination to present the last movement in almost as fierce a light as the first.

The importance of having a Rattle in long-term charge of an orchestra such as the CBSO was demonstrated by the performance of Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto. The soloist was Eduardo Vassallo, principal cellist and an instrumentalist fully equipped for a solo career. If he failed to sustain the tension in the cadenza, which must the longest soliloquy in the concerto repertoire, he was eloquent enough in the slow movement, incisively ironic, brilliantly witty and unfailingly secure elsewhere.

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هكذا فن الرحل

In the name of Scott, go!

Vernon Bogdanor says MPs should force resignations

The Scott inquiry was established, the Attorney-General declared in 1992. "to examine whether ministerial responsibility should be pinned in any particular area". Whether Sir Richard has done this successfully must be for Parliament and people to decide. The procedural irregularities, so cogently identified by Lord Howe. make it difficult to accept the Report as a final verdict. Its findings should be seen more as a point of departure than a terminus.

Scott does not, as that master of news management, Ian Lang, would have us believe, find the Government "not guilty" on all counts. Admittedly, the Report rejects the wilder charges — that ministers connived at exporting lethal arms to Iraq, or conspired to send innocent people to prison. Such charges should never have been made.

If the Report really exonerates the Government, why have ministers not accepted it? Malcolm Rifkind, speaking on *The World Tonight* on Thursday, confessed that the Government in fact rejected two of Scott's conclusions. These are that Sir Nicholas Lyell was personally at fault in his handling of the Matrix Churchill prosecution, and that William Waldegrave failed to comply with the principle of ministerial accountability. Such serious charges, if proved, should entail resignation.

> Parliament risks losing its capacity to bring ministers *to account*

The Report finds Lyell's interpretation of the law on public interest immunity claims in the Matrix Churchill case to be "unsound". His advice, that ministers had an automatic duty to sign such certificates, was never plausible. For if the signature were automatic, why should it need a minister to give it, rather than a junior *official*? A *ministerial signature* was an *assertion* that it would be injurious to the public interest to release the documents. Ministers should not have let themselves be reduced to the status of clerks.

The one minister who had qualms, Michael Heseltine, was mistakenly told that he was under a legal duty to sign a certificate, although he believed that the public interest required disclosure. The advice Heseltine was given was "based on a fundamental misconception of the principles of public interest immunity law". Worse still, a vital letter which Heseltine sent to the Attorney-General shortly before the Matrix Churchill trial, making clear his view of the limited nature of the certificate which he had signed, was left unread for at least three weeks. Scott finds this "astonishing".

Sir Nicholas seems also not to have informed either the prosecuting counsel or the judge of Heseltine's belief that the documents should be disclosed. As a result, the prosecution in the Matrix Churchill case argued that the documents were irrelevant to the defence and that the judge should not inspect them. Fortunately, the judge rejected this argument.

Public interest immunity certificates seem not have been used before in a criminal trial. While it is highly unlikely that innocent men would have gone to jail as a result, the Attorney-General seems to have taken far too light-hearted an attitude to the rights of defendants in a criminal trial. Unless he has a cogent defence to this charge, Parliament should enforce the Attorney-General's resignation. For Sir Nicholas seems to have shown a degree of negligence and incompetence incompatible with the position of senior law officer to the Government.

William Waldegrave is accused, not of negligence or incompetence, but of misleading Parliament. This, Scott concludes, was "deliberate". As a result of the inaccurate information he provided in 27 letters sent to MPs and inaccurate answers to Questions in the Commons, "Parliament and the public were *designedly* [my emphasis] led to believe that a stricter policy towards *non-lethal defence exports and* dual-use exports was being applied than was in fact the case." Mark Higson, a Foreign Office official who drafted letters for Waldegrave, believed that ministerial statements were untrue, and left the Foreign Office in January 1990. Civil servants ought not to be subjected to such strains on their integrity.

Waldegrave's defence is that he was reinterpreting the guidelines on exports to Iraq, rather than adopting "a new and more liberal policy". This, for Scott, is "so plainly inapposite as to be incapable of being sustained by serious argument". Waldegrave, Scott concludes, "consistently failed" to comply with the standard set by the Government's own document, *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*, "and, more important, failed to discharge the *obligations imposed by the* constitutional principle of Ministerial accountability".

It is now for Parliament and, in particular, for Conservative MPs to determine whether Scott has indeed pinned responsibility on Lyell and Waldegrave. The auguries are not promising. Governments have used the cloak of collective responsibility to ensure that ministerial faults go unpunished. The convention of ministerial responsibility, perhaps the central principle of our constitution, has a crucial weakness: it cannot be enforced against a recalcitrant government.

Thus perhaps the deepest lesson of the Scott inquiry is that Parliament is in danger of losing its capacity to bring ministers to account. If that happens, there will be a search for alternative methods of accountability, for some reference point beyond Parliament so that executive power can be made subject to proper control. *It is*, then, not only ministers who will be on trial when the Commons debates the Scott report, but Parliament itself as it seeks to prove that it remains what it has always claimed to be, the *grand inquest of the nation*.

The author is Reader in Government at Oxford.

Prince Charles's local vicar, **John Hawthorne**, on how a rural town copes with drugs and violence

An everyday horror story of country life

Tetbury is the tourist's dream of a small Cotswold market town. The tall, slim spire of its *elegant 18th-century parish church* is visible for miles around, welcoming the thousands of visitors who come to browse among the dozens of antiques shops, and perhaps hope to catch a glimpse of the Prince of Wales as he drives out to Highgrove, his country home on the town's southern edge. The only violent death any of them could surely imagine occurring in Tetbury would be that of the occasional fox at the hands (or hounds) of the indigenous Beaufort Hunt.

But the late idyll that is Tetbury has been shattered — shattered by eight recent violent deaths, mostly related to drugs. A fortnight ago, more than 250 people packed themselves into the local primary school for a public meeting, called by the local churches and with the personal backing of the Prince. A council meeting was postponed so that members could attend. Next Monday, another meeting will be held.

Many brave families came to the meeting, families who were prepared to speak of their own tragedies. They were solid, respectable families. Drug addicts in rural communities like Tetbury are mostly young, white and middle class. They do not come from the gutters of the inner cities, as many imagine, that is merely where they end up.

One father told of his teenage son, who recently spent a year in prison awaiting trial for the manslaughter of his mother, and is now at home on probation. The father emphasised that his wife's death was not itself drug-related. But he went on to say that his son had told him of his year in prison, and of the pressure there to take drugs. They were rife. "The most important thing we can do," his son had said, "is to tackle the spread of drugs in prisons."

Anybody who knows anything about prisons will say the same — not least the charity RAPt (Rehabilitation of Addicted Prisoners Trust). With the full co-operation of the Governor, the Trust has been running a voluntary rehabilitation programme at Downview Prison in Surrey since 1992. When the programme began, the prison was just 12 per cent drug-free; the figure is now almost 100 per cent. The Trust has just begun work in Coldingly Prison, and will shortly tackle Pentonville. But it was only last year that the Prison Service began funding the Downview project.

Despite the seductive title of last May's White Paper, *Tackling Drugs Together*, Government policy and practice appear out of step. Until they are in step, the vicious circle of drugs, crime, prison and back to drugs will continue. The White Paper quotes an estimate that £864 million of acquisitive crime a year is heroin-related. This is £338 million *more* than the Paper's estimate for the entire Government annual expenditure on tackling drug misuse across the UK. It costs the taxpayer £24,000 a year to keep someone in prison, whereas an intensive RAPt programme costs a mere £1,800 per prisoner.

The people of Tetbury have galvanised themselves into action. Youth leaders and social workers, with representatives of the schools, police, parents and the community at large have signed up as one to come together, urgently, to take practical steps to fight the drugs menace in the town before there is yet another funeral. They aim to form an action and awareness group, working with and for young people and families. They are determined, too, to find means of relieving the boredom and frustration that all young people find in small towns and villages everywhere, and which make them easy targets for the pushers and dealers.

At present, Gloucestershire has an imaginative drugs strategy, actively supported by the Prince's Trust, which has much in common with the White Paper. But at the Tetbury meeting, a widely-held view was: "The trouble with policy is that it is made by politicians." The parties, as we come up to a General Election, are vying with each other to be seen to be tough on crime and tough on drugs. Anything less will cost votes. As a result we have a policy that, on the surface, looks and sounds good, but whether it will seriously tackle and begin to overcome the *real* drugs problem is open to doubt.

It is open to doubt because the thinking behind the policy is too shallow, and it is shallow because senior politicians of all parties seem frightened to look too deep.

Bing Spear, the former head of the Home Office Drugs Inspectorate, in *his last public statement just before* he died last year, called on politicians to re-think their entire approach to the drugs problem.

He wrote: "Few British politicians seem prepared to dip more than a tentative toe into the debate, far less engage in a fundamental re-think." But until we have that re-think, violent deaths in Tetbury and communities like it will continue.

The author is Vicar of Tetbury.

Why you never tip an equal

Service charges force customers to pay and be robbed, or refuse and be humiliated. The law should ban them

Bernard Levin

The Man who questioned the Service Charge — after Bateman

I rather think that it is I who should be called to settle the row now going on about restaurant charges, though none of the restaurateurs has as yet even asked my opinion. More fools they.

To begin with, the fracas is not just about hiked prices — those have been going on for many years, and the customers likewise have been complaining since — well, since "... the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat..." (Mind you, there is another bit about being cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field, which suggests that Adam and Eve were vegetarians. I should sincerely hope not.)

But before I get into the fray, I must offer my credentials. To start with, I will have you know that I am a *Chevalier de la Confrerie des Tastes-Fromages de France*, and I have a scroll, together with a beautiful green sash and a medallion to hang on it. More to the point, eating good food and drinking good wine (in particular with good company) has been my hobby throughout my life.

And why not? There are people who collect rare stamps and glow with pleasure when they find a beautifully-kept Penny Black; nobody says the collector is a fool. There are other people — many — who stand on the touchline of a soccer or rugby game in cold and rain to cheer their idols; why not, if it pleases them? There are those who can pore over a chessboard for hours — and without actually playing, but just following a printed game played years ago.

I love good food and enjoy it, just as those who enjoy their own hobbies do.

Yet, there is one difference; a strange difference, which I have written about before. The worst that can be said of the stamp-collector is that he is wasting his time in trivialities; the worst said of the Cantona-follower is that he gets too angry; the worst of chess is that the spectators get bored.

But the man who makes food his hobby will be laughed at, sneered at and even shouted at. I will take good odds that there will be several letters in my postbag when this column is published, letters which denounce me as a voluptuary; my only consolation is that half of them can't spell voluptuary and the other half don't know what it means.

No, dammit: that is *not* my only consolation. I have many consolations, among which will be found my pleasure in good food.

But now to the subject I was supposed to be discussing: the Earl of Bradford's assault, not on restaurant prices, but on restaurant money tricks. The Earl has put forward a measure, called the Restaurant (Service and Cover Charges) Bill, the purpose of which is to bring Britain into line with the rest of Western Europe in the matter of paying for meals. Let me make all clear.

If you have a restaurant meal in France, you will be given one bill at the end of it. The bill will include all service and other charges, and no one is expected to give more nor do they. The same is true for Belgium, Germany, Holland and indeed all the Western European nations.

Except Britain.

Except Britain.

In Britain, your bill can include — openly and without blushes from the *patron* — separate cover charges, separate vegetables (this is not a joke), separate coffee, even separate *petit-fours* (this is also not a joke). And there is no rule covering *all* these things in all restaurants: two restaurants side by side in the same street can be charging in vastly different ways.

The Earl of Bradford — three cheers for him: no, six — has now taken up the cudgels, and if he wants a cudgel with nails sticking out, I'm his man.

Naturally, most of the most expensive restaurants are screaming the place down: *just look at a few here*. But before you do, take the measure not just of the prices but, much more significantly, of the way the restaurants wriggle out of their claims to be modest when the bill comes.

For instance, at Kensington Place (which has the remarkable honour of being the noisiest restaurant in London), "the service charge is left to the discretion of the customer ... although parties of nine or more are told there is a fixed charge of 12½ per cent". Then comes the *coup de grâce*: "... if for any reason a party questions this, we would shrug and refund it," says Tim Brice, the manager. "... Happily, so far, no one has complained."

Happily, so far, no one has complained.

Oh, yes? Just picture the scene; here is a diner, just finishing his meal. There has been no complaint about the food and wine and service. But the diner doesn't want to pay for the service, and he refuses to tip. A certain *froideur* would ensue, would it not?

Or take the same road to the Pont de la Tour, which is owned by the Terence Conran Group (as is everything except Mount Everest, and there is a bid out for that now) — and which demands 12½ per cent irrespective of the number of the party. "Should a customer question the charge," *says its man*, "*I would ask if* anything was wrong, but he or she would not be forced to pay the tip."

Just one more: James Ward of Orso, near Covent Garden, says: "Tipping is discretionary, while there is a fixed service charge of 12½ per cent on parties of 10 or more, but there would be no question of enforcing the charge if the customer did not want to pay."

The only words fitting this catalogue are "Come off it". Legally, of course, *the service charges (which, in* a very great number of restaurants, including some well-known ones, are dreadful or invisible), need not be paid, and that is the screen behind which so many restaurateurs hide. But, dear reader and eater, have you ever seen, in a respectable restaurant, a customer raising his voice not to blast the food, with which he is wholly content, but to argue about the tipping? No, dear reader and eater, you haven't. Nor have I. Nor has anybody else. Nor does the picture need a very large major-domo to browbeat the customer who refuses a tip, in whatever guise.

Let me turn the story just a little. One day, in New York, I was dining alone, but when I had finished my meal (a very good one, as I recall), I saw a friend on the other side of the restaurant, who beckoned me over. He motioned me to sit down, and he was very angry at something connected with the tip. I calmed him down, and another friend joined us. In helping my first friend to stop seething, the third voice said words that I have never forgotten, though this all happened a good many decades ago. He said: "You never tip an equal."

I have used those words in countless forms and places, and with *countless effects. For they are packed* with meaning, are they not? I look up from my desk at *The Times* and I see a colleague, a colleague who has recently given me a bit of help. I have thanked him, but in doing so, I would never have thought of giving him money, nor would he have thought to take it. *You never tip an equal.*

When you think of it, do you not feel that the entire business of tipping is not only distasteful, but shocking and almost evil? During my first visit to New Zealand (and I hope it was the first of many), one of the most striking items that I took into my mind and heart was the fact that there was in New Zealand no tipping. It wasn't a rule, much less a law; but the weight off my shoulders when I learned that wonderful truth will never fade from my memory.

Come, Lord Bradford and your colleagues; there will be Members of the House of Commons, and also some in the Lords, who would like to scupper your splendid Bill; I regret to say that (some? many? all?) of those who fight it are in one way or another tied up with the catering and restaurant world.

The last stand of the "Keep tipping alive" team will be a false and indeed almost criminal claim: that tipping has to go on because, in many places, the tippees cannot live decently without tips. It answers itself: try using decent wages for those who have none. Meanwhile, let us remember those potent words: You never tip an equal.

Grassed off

THE COLLAPSE of the IRA *ceasefire has achieved what the* elements have always singularly failed to do. For the first time, MPs have been driven from their beloved media playground, College Green, as part of a massive security clampdown at Westminster.

They have been advised by the Serjeant at Arms's office that the scrubby patch of grass is off-limits for interviews with broadcasters and journalists until further notice.

Officially called Abingdon Green but known as College Green because of its proximity to Westminster School, the lawn has a crucial role in the democratic process when the House of Commons is sitting. During the leadership election last summer, it became a battleground as TV crews camped there around the clock.

Sir Teddy Taylor, one of the most familiar faces, is mortified. "It's desperately sad and just one of the many problems we have with this non-democratic lifestyle."

Keep off the lawn: MPs must stay away from College Green

THE TIMES DIARY

● *The train from Liverpool back to London after the Requiem Mass for the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, on Thursday was heaving with clerics. On arrival at Euston, the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, sailed down an escalator, patting the episcopal pockets and deliberating with two priests over whether he had the right change for the tube fare.*

Do I like that

WHITHER a former England football manager, when even his days at a struggling First Division club are done? Graham Taylor, the man dubbed "the Turnip" by the tabloids and forced to resign as manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers in the face of hostile public opinion last year, has a new life on the party circuit.

At a champagne-and-oysters bash in Chelsea on Thursday night, he was tanned and relaxed and talked of a new love. "I have been really getting into the theatre," he explained. "It's wonderful. A completely different drama to the football field. I saw *The Entertainer* the other day. Do you know it? Marvellous stuff."

Ice cool

MEMBERS OF the Icelandic Society in London are on tenterhooks over the prospect of sitting down to supper tonight with Jeremy Paxman. The interrogator was yesterday trying to re-schedule his domestic arrangements in order to attend their annual "thorrablot" or midwinter feast. The invitation came after Paxo confided over lunch recently that he wanted to try his hand at slaying puffins.

The menu at the thorrablot will include such delicacies as shark — preferably buried for up to 13 years before consumption — pickled rams' testicles, sheep's heads and the Icelandic schnapps, Brennivin (more commonly known as Black Death). Paxman is slightly dismayed. "What, no endangered species? How disappointing. And no puffin, what a shame. I am now known in the office as the puffin strangler," he said.

Spaced out

AFTER the revelations this week that Mensa's magazine is carrying advertisements for sperm donors to create a race of super-brains, news comes of an even more alien project. A band of the throbbing eggheads have set up a Mensa UFO study group.

The first official newsletter has been beamed down on to my desk. One contributor outlines the nine "*extra-terrestrial types*" in contact with Earth and notes that there are alien bases in the US, China and Australia, but not in Britain.

Mensa member Sir Clive Sinclair welcomes the new group. "It's an interesting subject, but it's *not* my particular hobby."

"No wonder I couldn't lift it, Reg"

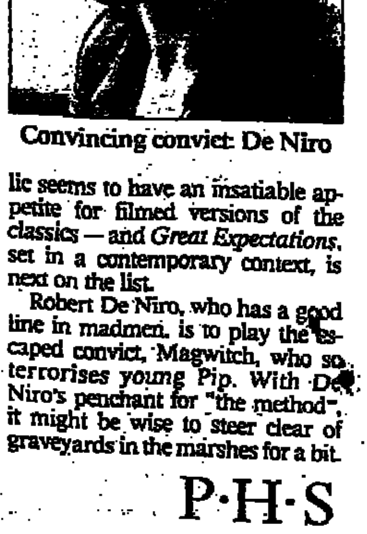
Time for tea

LORD BROCKET, the disgraced peer now serving five years in jail for fraud, is settling in nicely at Bedford Prison. He is said to have landed himself a cushy job serving tea and buns to prison warders.

"Prisoners quite look up to him because he has this air of authority, having been an officer in the army," says one warder.

Mad Mag

THE hot tip from Hollywood is that Robert De Niro is lined up for the latest literary blockbuster. After all the heaving bosoms of recent Jane Austen adaptations, the public seems to have an insatiable appetite for filmed versions of the classics — and *Great Expectations*, set in a contemporary context, is next on the list.


Convincing convict: De Niro

Robert De Niro, who has a good line in madmen, is to play the escaped convict, Magwitch, who so terrorises young Pip. With De Niro's penchant for "the method", it might be wise to steer clear of graveyards in the marshes for a bit.

P·H·S

WAR CRIMES TIGHTROPE

Where justice and reconciliation walk together

Richard Goldstone has been entrusted with a task that is as hazardous as it is momentous. The South African jurist is the chief prosecutor for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Working with specially-devised judicial methods — and an institution not seen since the Nuremberg trials — he has to walk daily along a taut tightrope, retaining always a balance between the importance of justice in Bosnia and the need for reconciliation. Mr Justice Goldstone's tightrope is tied at one end to Bosnia's past, and at the other end to the country's future. It is tied at a great height, from which a fall would be calamitous, and is shaken constantly by the blood-stained hands of those who fear the tribunal and its consequences.

In the circumstances, the chief prosecutor needs to advance with an assured step and a clear head. Fortunately, he has both. His announcement on Wednesday that the tribunal is about to indict the first Bosnian Muslims for suspected war crimes was important proof of the tribunal's impartiality; and confirms the chief prosecutor's high reputation for fairness and rigour.

Put bluntly, the announcement could not have come at a better time. A fortnight ago, the Bosnian Government arrested two aides to Ratko Mladic, the military commander of the Bosnian Serbs. Unlike General Mladic himself, the aides, thought to be war criminals, have not as yet been indicted by the tribunal. Should they, then, have been arrested? The Bosnian Serbs thought not, and angrily broke off dealings with Ifor, the Nato-led implementation force. As if acknowledging the question marks which hovered over their actions, the Bosnian Government, very correctly, passed responsibility for the men arrested to Mr Justice Goldstone's tribunal. Yet the chief prosecutor recognised the need to assuage Bosnian Serb sentiment: he has done so by making clear that the Muslims have their "bad guys" too.

The tribunal has a mandate to indict, try and imprison perpetrators of war crimes, whether Serb, Croat or Muslim. The judicial process is intended to satisfy a hunger for justice and retribution in a land scarred by war: this hunger cannot, and should not, be ignored. But care must also be taken to ensure that the process of ethnic reconciliation — which is the only basis for lasting peace in the area — is not itself disturbed by the war crimes trials. The judicial process must assist, not work against, the reconstruction of Bosnia.

However painful to the victims and their relatives, it should be obvious that every last villager who torched his neighbour's house will not be indicted. To do so would be to set community against community once again, at a time when the delicate process of reintegration has scarcely begun. There is need, instead, to pick carefully those who should stand trial, and then to ensure that those picked do not escape the course of justice.

There is a powerful political case — which does no violence to moral imperatives — for identifying, and pursuing as vigorously as possible, those who led the atrocities, gave orders and framed policy. Unless individuals are clearly identified as responsible for these crimes, collective hatreds will continue to fester. To pursue those who were chiefly responsible is not an ignoble way of drawing the line. There will be fewer trials, of course: but each one will serve as powerful symbol and example. As Mr Justice Goldstone has often said, there is no contradiction between this kind of carefully-drawn justice and genuine peace. By focusing principally on the brains behind the barbarism, Ifor's task is also greatly simplified. It is easier to detain a small number of readily identifiable war criminals than it is to sift through entire communities, especially in those cases where no one can truly be described as innocent. Guilt in Bosnia is commonplace: that is why Mr Justice Goldstone walks a tightrope.

CHERRY-PICKERS

The Bible, Shakespeare, Johnson, Churchill — and now Scott

The Scott report has been pigeonholed among the classics. However, this plump pigeon goes into the hole not for its prose, wit, readability, conversations or drama; but for its chameleon quotability. The report on arms exports to Iraq is a pond in which *ministerial goldfish glitter and Opposition piranha go on feeding frenzy*. From it friends of the Government can pick out the plums of vindication with honour. But from it enemies can also pluck the sloes of condemnation of this same Government as secretive, incompetent, sophistical and economical with the *actualité* as well as the truth.

Selective quotation is a facility afforded by big books, especially one that labours to guard its spine against politicians. The Devil is famous not only for having the best tunes, but also for being able to quote scripture for his own soundbites. Shakespeare is claimed as a supporter by both the hard Right and romantic wets. And prescriptive pedants as well as descriptive permissives can find passages to prop up their prejudices in the works and words of Dr Johnson. Churchill is a quotation dictionary of textual encouragement for all hobbyhorses in the Tory stables. Sir Richard Scott would not claim to be on a level with the psalmist and other such giants, whose varied genius made them all things to all men. But his latest summing-up includes sticks and carrots for all.

For political cherry-pickers have now systematically taken up selective quotation, which used to be the art of theatre managers. Even the rudest notice can be made to look enthusiastic by omissions and the judicious use of triple dots. "Spectacular ... *(Daily Beast)*" may have started life on the critic's screen as, "This show is a spectacular flop." Unsurprisingly, only the first of James Thurber's two-sentence review — "It had only one fault. It was kind of lousy." — was chosen to advertise the play.

Political cherry-picking is the rhetorical equivalent of the grammatical figure of synecdoche, in which a part is taken out to stand for the whole. But in nautical grammar a fleet of 50 sail at least did have sails, and a team of England caps consists of the players, whether or not they are wearing their caps. But selective quotation and marginal misquotation from Scott have produced confusion rather than grammatical shorthand. On the one quote, ministers did not change the guidelines on arms exports, on the other quote, they were agreeing on a change of policy. The Attorney-General genuinely believed that he was personally, as opposed to constitutionally, blameless. However he was personally at fault. His advice about PII certificates appears correct as well as a fundamental misconception. Ministers did not deliberately mislead Parliament at the same time as there was a deliberate failure to inform Parliament.

So the Scott report is a book to take to the desert island along with the Bible and Shakespeare. For it will provide a quote for every season and taste. Since it perversely avoids coming to any particular conclusion, it is one of those books for which the reader can make up an ending to suit him. And, if the worst comes to the worst, the report is big and turgid enough to build a raft with — or at the least to frighten away the cannibals.

KEEP SMOKE ALIVE

Irish mist preserves the cigars in the woodpile

Ireland bears as many blessings as curses but the climate that makes the island emerald has, until now, been accounted one of its many drawbacks. The dampness and drizzle that blight potato crops and eat away at the fabric of Ascendancy homes have only contributed to the twilit melancholy of the Gael. But out of Hibernia's uttermost West comes proof that precipitation can be providential.

The damp in a Co Sligo country house has preserved a stock of fine Havana cigars in a smoke-able state for 132 years. Leaves that would have lost their savour and grown stale if left in a draughty corner of an English home or Scottish castle have kept their aromatic oils, despite being mistaken for kindling, thanks to the wet winds from the Atlantic that batter Connaught. Cigar aficionados know the great coronas must be kept cool and moist if they are to maintain their subtle allure. That these neglected torpedoes were sustained through civil war, partition and punitive taxation by heavenly humidity is a reminder, as if we needed one, that like all great men and some great women, God is a cigar-smoker.

The cigar has suffered, unfairly, by association with the plutocrat. The unacceptable face of capitalism has always had a top hat on its head and a stoagie stuck between its lips. Certainly those who have acquired wisdom as well as wealth have known there are few better investments than the moments spent with a Montecristo. From Winston Churchill to Wyatt of Weeford those who affect an aristocratic tilt to their Toryism have done so with Havana in hand. It can contribute to an air of arrogance and opponents may have wanted to give these grandees a Punch in the mouth. But they probably already had one there.

Despite its popularity with the men of the Right, a good corona is as much an argument for socialism as a capitalist tool. Che and Castro were high-profile puffers and the finest cigar in the world, Cuba's Cohiba, is the product of Marxist central planning. Groucho may have popularised them but without Karl the cigar would never have reached its most sublime.

Men are seldom so innocently employed as when putting a panatella to their lips. Tobacco has been a peace-maker since the first pipe was passed from Iroquois chief to Pilgrim father and even now it is impossible to muster the aggression needed for any argument while soothed by a subtle Romeo y Julieta. As Churchill himself almost said, puff-puff is better than rough stuff.

The aroma of a great cigar on man is more attractive than any cologne but female enjoyment should not be restricted to the initial rolling of the leaves on lithe thighs or the appreciation of the intoxicating odour. The fastest-growing market for cigars stateside is among young women. There are signs the taste is spreading here. Bacall may have enticed with a smouldering cigarette, but Sharon Stone and Cindy Crawford now inspire respect with an assertive robusto jammed between bee-stung lips. After all, with barriers of taste breaking down between the sexes, women are still women, but why leave cigars to the blokes?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Duty, integrity and accountability, as viewed by Scott

From the Provost of
The Queen's College, Oxford

Sir, At least the Scott inquiry (reports and leading article, February 16) has helped to dispel the widespread misunderstanding of our doctrine of ministerial responsibility.

It is an essential feature of that doctrine that the Government has an unchanging policy of giving the fullest information to Parliament. But, of course, one must distinguish between the policy itself, the application of the policy, the guidelines for its application, the interpretation of the guidelines, and relaxation of, or possible changes of emphasis within, the guidelines.

Circumstances often make it necessary for there to be some degree of relaxation or change of emphasis within the guidelines for the interpretation of a relaxed application of an unchanged policy of keeping Parliament fully informed.

These simple distinctions are essential to the understanding of our system of parliamentary accountability and we should all be grateful to ministers for pointing them out.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY MARSHALL,
The Queen's College, Oxford.
February 16.

From Mr Robert Seabrook, QC,
and others

Sir, Whatever the wider issues explored in Sir Richard Scott's inquiry, the notion, which has been assiduously peddled in some quarters during the past three years, that the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, was engaged in a deliberate suppression of evidence in the Matrix Churchill prosecution was always unsustainable. It was a shoddy and unwarranted slur on his integrity.

It is our collective understanding and experience that at the time of the Matrix Churchill trial a minister was, as a matter of law, under a duty to decline to disclose documents of a certain recognised class in which there was an established prima facie public interest in non-disclosure. The documents would then be referred to the trial judge, who would carry out a "balancing exercise" to determine whether the interests of justice in the particular case nevertheless required disclosure.

Anyone having doubts as to whether the recognised procedures were fairly and properly followed in the Matrix Churchill case should be reminded of the following:

1. Prosecuting counsel, Mr Alan Moses, QC, duly placed the material and the ministers' certificates before the court in accordance with his instructions and the well-established procedures. One of the defending counsel in the case, Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, described Mr Moses's conduct of the matter as "the embodiment of fairness" (report, March 24, 1994).
2. The trial judge, Judge Smedley, specifically decided that the immunity had been properly claimed by the ministers concerned.
3. The judge carried out the "balancing exercise" and duly ordered disclosure of most, though not all, of the material and the trial proceeded.
4. Other defending counsel in the case have also publicly refuted any suggestion of unfairness, lack of integrity or abuse on the part of the Attorney-General or the prosecuting authorities. Two of them, Mr James Hunt, QC, and Mr Michael Stokes, stated in a letter which you published on November 13, 1992, that "there was no question of anyone attempting to suppress evidence".

There was no "gagging order". The Matrix Churchill prosecution was abandoned not because of any suppression of the truth but because Mr Alan Clark, the former Defence Minister, changed his evidence. To say otherwise would be to distort the "*actualité*" with which Mr Clark himself was so "economical".

Yours etc,
ROBERT SEABROOK,
MICHAEL BELOFF,
GRAHAM BOAL,
PHILIP HAVERS,
JOHN NUTTING,
ANNE RAFFERTY,
As from: 1 Crown Office Row,
Temple, EC4.
February 16.

From Mr Anthony Barnett

Sir, A new constitutional concept is being pressed upon us, that of "ministerial sincerity". If it is established, government will cease to be answerable in any way that makes sense and public life will be gravely corrupted.

I can understand ministerial *responsibility*. I appreciate the narrower but in some ways more realistic assertion of ministerial *accountability*. But ministerial *sincerity* is something else. What would politicians say to shoppers who claimed they "sincerely believed" they had put an item into the supermarket trolley when it went into their own bag?

So was a wrong committed? The public understands that the Scott inquiry was established in part to decide whether Parliament had been misled. Scott concludes it was "designedly" misled. It is outrageous for ministers to say this is still a matter of "opinion", as Mr Waldegrave argued on television last night. It may have been so before Scott reported. It is no longer.

The fact is established that, *designedly*, ministers misled Parliament. That Mr Waldegrave did not *mean* to do this cannot diminish his accountability. The spine of public service will be broken if those in power are answerable only for what they think they do and not for what they actually do.

We can only conclude that legislation is needed, from a Freedom of Information Act to a Civil Service Act, to ensure that those who hold public office are indeed accountable to the public rather than their own state of mind.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY BARNETT
(Policy Adviser),
Charter 88,
Exmouth House, 3-11 Pine Street, EC1.
February 16.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, The Scott inquiry and report and nearly all the comment on both miss the real scandal: not that people with power and money tell lies, which is surely no surprise, but that this country depends on the manufacture and sale of weapons of death.

Yours etc,
NICOLAS WALTER,
88 Islington High Street, N1.

Church approach to spirit of the age

From the Right Reverend
Hugh Montefiore

Sir, "Ecology counts more than adultery" headed your report (later editions, February 14) about the views of General Synod members. Is this a matter for praise or criticism?

Adultery is a serious sin against the integrity of marriage, which requires exclusiveness, commitment and permanence. But morality is not just about individuals. What of an environmental crisis resulting in the death of millions? Unless there are drastic changes in human behaviour and values, a future of mass starvation, economic insecurity and political instability can be almost guaranteed.

In this context members of General Synod are right to believe that "ecology counts for more than adultery". Such a judgment is profoundly prophetic.

The two major problems facing the world are global warming and increasing population. The two are interconnected, for heat and storms damage and ruin crops. Every year brings 90 million more mouths to feed. Yet we have crossed many thresholds of sustainability: fish harvests are falling, and we are living on marine capital; for the third consecutive year grain stocks have fallen and are now at an estimated 49 days of consumption; "set aside" land or new crop developments cannot plug the gap; water tables are falling; there is decreasing cropland per person; fertiliser use is declining.

Unless world population is stabilised, disaster is inevitable. The European Union has done this already and is self-sufficient in basic foods, but it increases global warming through emissions of carbon dioxide.

The saving of souls takes precedence over ecology, but the moral dilemma facing the world is more important than condemnation of adultery.

Yours faithfully,
†HUGH MONTEFIORE
(Chairman,
Friends of the Earth Trust),
White Lodge, 23 Bellevue Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW17.
February 15.

From the Chairman of the Synod's
House of Laity and others

Sir, Your report of the survey of the General Synod of 1990-95 and accompanying leading article suggest that it shows a Church which is "increasingly left wing ... with a greater women's influence".

The last General Synod (like the present one) did include a higher number of women. In doing so, it simply proved itself more representative of the society and the Church it seeks to serve. Having more women in synod does not produce those extreme feminist scenarios portrayed in your leader.

Your report suggests that the survey showed that the Church now comprises mostly Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters. In this, it is no different from the country. In fact a higher percentage of the synod's House of Laity (44 per cent) voted Conservative in 1992 than in the country as a whole (42 per cent).

While bishops believed the issues of poverty and the environment should be engaging the Church, they also said that the Church should speak out on traditional ethical issues such as abortion and euthanasia.

Like all social surveys, the recent analysis of the General Synod's membership deserves careful study. For the open way it has made this possible the synod deserves credit, not the caricature of your leader.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINA A. BAXTER,
Chairman of the House of Laity,
P. J. GIDDINGS
(Vice-Chairman),
J. M. SENTAMU
(Prolocutor, Convocation of Canterbury),
JOHN A. STANLEY
(Prolocutor, Convocation of York),
The General Synod of the
Church of England,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1.
February 14.

From the Reverend Dr Peter C. Jupp

Sir, If Dean Inge were alive, he would probably reiterate that "if you marry the Spirit of your generation, you will be a widow in the next". Earlier, Archbishop Tait had criticised the "broad church" position with the words: "What is wanted is a deeply religious liberal party ... the great evil is that the liberals are deficient in religion, and the religious are deficient in liberality".

The survey which you report today suggests that some criticisms of the Church have ageless, if not eternal, validity.

Yours faithfully,
PETER C. JUPP,
Braddan House, High Street,
Duddington, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
February 14.

Endangered snails

From Dr Norman Moore and others

Sir, We note that the endangered species of snail, *Vertigo moulinsiana*, has been recorded by English Nature at 19 locations along the rivers Kennet and Lambourn in Berkshire (News in brief, February 15). The species has already been reported at the Rack Marsh Nature Reserve, an island in the Lambourn that will be irreparably damaged by the embankments of the proposed Newbury bypass.

Last December the Government's biodiversity steering group placed *Vertigo moulinsiana* on a list of 116 endangered species that should receive priority conservation efforts. Furthermore, the habitat is already under consideration by English Nature as a special area of conservation under the EU habitats directive.

Because no comprehensive environmental impact assessment has been carried out, the international conservation importance of habitats along the bypass route and the damage they would be subjected to from the new road are not known.

It is therefore vital that the Government suspend all works along the bypass route and delay the signing of the construction contract until a thorough and independent environmental impact assessment has been effected.

Yours etc,
N. W. MOORE
(Chief Scientific Officer,
Nature Conservancy Council, 1974-83),
ALASTAIR FITTER
(Department of Biology,
University of York),
BRIAN MOSS
(Department of Environmental and Biological Studies, University of Liverpool),
PHILIP WEBBER
(Chair, Scientists for
Global Responsibility),
University of York,
Department of Biology,
PO Box No 373, York.
February 16.

Farrant case

From Mr Peter Doyle

Sir, A man is standing trial for the murder of his girlfriend. It is a notorious case. To assist his detection and arrest, his picture was in most newspapers today, and on the television too.

As the jury is told who he is and what he is alleged to have done, they say to themselves, "Ah! This is the man we read about, who was hunted high and low". They also remind themselves that he has a previous conviction for rape. How do they know? They opened their newspapers today and read about it.

If Victor Farrant is found, arrested, charged and committed for trial, how does it assist the judge's task of ensuring a fair trial if those who try him already know that he is a rapist?

Yours faithfully,
PETER DOYLE,
9-12 Bell Yard, WC2.
February 14.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Countryside letter

From the Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer of Arco

Sir, Congratulations to *The Times* for supporting the worthy efforts of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (letter and leading article, February 9; other letters, February 12 and 15).

My own company, Arco, has been operating in and around Britain for more than 25 years. We have always endeavoured to be a good neighbour by supporting deserving causes in the United Kingdom. Being in the oil, gas and chemicals business, we are especially sensitive to environmental concerns.

One of my first decisions on becoming chairman eight months ago was to sponsor a conference of experts on environmental problems to be held in London this December under the chairmanship of Sir Crispin Tickell.

In the meantime, inspired by the appeal of the three party leaders — and your editorial comments — we have contacted the CPRE to offer financial support. We are confident that the combined efforts of government leaders, *The Times* and concerned citizens, supported by contributions from all segments of the United Kingdom, will successfully preserve and restore the truly historic countryside of your great nation.

Sincerely,
MIKE R. BOWLIN,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Arco,
515 South Flower Street,
Los Angeles, California 90071.
February 13.

Car lights in daytime

From Mr Stephen Prower

Sir, Mr Hugo Griffin-Jorgensen (letter, February 10) cites Swedish and Finnish experience in favour of all vehicles having their lights on in daytime.

After Finland brought in its winter daytime lights law in 1972 only the proportion of mainly animal accidents fell.

In October 1977 Sweden brought in its own law and an official study estimated a reduction in daytime multiple accidents of between 6 per cent and 13 per cent. But it confused the effect of daytime lights with a likely downward trend in night-time drinking and driving.

All that can be concluded is that few Finnish elk crossed the road in daytime, and that although Swedish daytime lights may have reduced accidents, possibly fewer drunk Swedes were on the road at night.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN PROWER
(Research Officer,
British Motorcyclists Federation),
37 Buckthorn Avenue,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire.
February 10.

Here today ...

From Dr Jack Barrett, MRSC

Sir, Dr William Alcock's letter (February 6) about the disappearance of Mr Winston Graham's snow (letter, February 2) is scientifically correct, but he failed to describe how it disappeared. It was converted to vapour because the air flowing over it was relatively dry and warmer than the snow. Water molecules on the surface became energized and were ejected into the passing air as vapour.

Mr J. A. W. Jennings (letter, February 13) is wrong to say that sublimation cannot occur at atmospheric pressure. Although sunlight assists it, the process does not depend entirely upon solar radiation as Mr Graham knows because some of his snow disappeared overnight.

Yours sincerely,
JACK BARRETT,
273 King's Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.
February 13.

No two cues alike

From Mr Stanley R. Lowy

Sir, In your leader of today, "A cue missed", you ask: "Is a snooker cue a work of complex craftsmanship, as a cricket bat is?" As makers of both implements we can tell you the answer is "Yes". Indeed a snooker cue is perhaps more complex to make than a cricket bat, being composed of a number of different woods crafted together by complicated joints and requiring perhaps 100 processes before becoming the finished article.

Since no two pieces of wood are identical, cues cannot be replicated by automatic machinery from homogenous raw material of a precise specification. They do indeed come in "a perplexing variety of shapes, sizes, finishes, sheens and weights".

To suggest that a cue is not a complex work is on a par with suggesting that just anybody can write a third leader for *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY R. LOWY
(Chairman),
Power Glide,
119/121 Stanstead Road,
Forest Hill, SE23.
February 9.

Sport and TV

From Professor Douglas Wood

Sir, Satellite and cable broadcasters are currently willing to pay almost any price for exclusive rights to trophy events enjoying mass audiences on terrestrial channels because this is an effective way for them to boost subscriptions (letters, February 6, 14). Once the target market is signed up, the logic for aggressive bidding disappears.

Unfortunately by then the sports industry is likely to find that the lavish sponsorship currently provided by cigarettes, drink and car companies in exchange for free advertising to mass audiences on terrestrial channels will also have evaporated.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS WOOD,
Manchester Business School,
Booth Street West, Manchester.

Weekend Money letters, page 43

Bowled over

From Mr A. J. Saunders

Sir, Never mind the Take That fans (report, February 14), what's the counselling hotline for distraught England cricket supporters?

Yours etc,
A. J. SAUNDERS,
16 Silchester Way,
Westlea, Swindon, Wiltshire.
February 15.

هكذا في الأصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 16: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today visited Croydon on the occasion of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Whitgift Foundation.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by the Deputy Lieutenant of the London Borough of Croydon (Colonel Ian McRobbie) and the Mayor of Croydon (Councillor Clarence McKenzie).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Hospital of the Holy Trinity (the Whitgift Almshouses) and were received by the Chairman of the Whitgift Foundation (Sir Douglas Lovelock).

*Her Majesty and His Royal High*ness toured the Hospital and viewed an exhibition of restoration work.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh afterwards visited the Borough's new Arts and Library complex, Croydon Clocktower, and were received by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Mary Walker) and the Chief Executive (Mr David Wechsler).

Her Majesty later visited Whitgift School and was received by the Chairman of the School Committee (Councillor Maurice Fowler) and the Headmaster (Dr Christopher Barnett).

The Queen walked to Whitgift House and was received by the Chairman of the Almshouse and Whitgift House Committee (Mr David North) and met a number of the residents and staff.

Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness, this afternoon attended the launch of the Whitgift Foundation Four Hundredth Anniversary celebrations at Old Palace School.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were received by the Chairman of the School Committee (Professor John Dougill) and the Headmistress (Miss Kathleen Hilton).

Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, subsequently honoured the Governors of the Whitgift Foundation with her presence at Luncheon.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited Trinity School during the morning and was received by the Chairman of the School Committee (Mr Alan Sexton) and the Headmaster (Mr Barnaby Lenon).

February 16: The Prince Edward, Trustee, this morning attended The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Finance and Administration Committee meeting at Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this afternoon visited Consolidated Financial Insurance, Vantage West, Great West Road, Middlesex.

YORK HOUSE
February 16: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the National Army Museum, this morning visited the Special Exhibition "Bonnie Prince Charlie — Fact or Fiction", Royal Hospital Road, London SW3.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, UNICEF, this morning arrived at London Heathrow Airport from Mumbai, India.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

Royal engagements at the weekend

TODAY and TOMORROW:
The Duke of Edinburgh, as Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, will attend a trustees retreat at St George's House, Windsor Castle, from 12.30.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at *Buckingham Palace at 11.30.*

TOMORROW: The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

Memorial service

Dr O.P. Dinnick
A memorial meeting for Dr Peter Dinnick, anaesthetist, was held yesterday at the Royal Society of Medicine. Dr Wynne Aveling, Chairman of the Middlesex Hospital Anaesthetic Department, presided. Dr Donald Short, Dr Richard Vanner, Dr Ronnie Greenbaum and Dr Stuart Ingram also spoke.

Mountbatten Festival of Music 1996

Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Ross, Commandant General Royal Marines, was the host at the Mountbatten Festival of Music 1996 given by the massed bands of Mer Majesty's Royal Marines at the Albert Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mr Nicholas Soames, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, was the principal guest on Wednesday, Countess Mountbatten of Burma on Thursday and the American Ambassador on Friday.

Dinners

Spectacle Makers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, presented the Lord Crook Medal, for an outstanding contribution to visual science, to Professor Richard Gregory at a dinner of the Spectacle Makers' Company held last night at Apothecaries' Hall. Mr Bob Ingham, Master, presided. Mr Peter Mills, Renter Warden, and *Lord Prior also spoke.*

Royal College of Radiologists
The President of the Royal College of Radiologists and Mrs Brindle were the hosts at a dinner held last night at 38 Portland Place.

MARTIN GODWIN

Constructed out of a 34-ton block of ice, *Intensities and Surfaces*, an "installation" by the artist Anya Gallacio, slowly melts in the boiler room of Wapping Pumping Station, east London

Service dinners

RN College Greenwich
Mr David Jacobs, accompanied by Mrs Jacobs, was the principal guest at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Commander I.R. Wellesley-Harding, Commander of the College, presided.

HMS Collingwood
Captain C.M.C. Crawford, Captain of *HMS Collingwood*, and Mrs Crawford were the guests of honour at a Valentine's ladies' night dinner held last night onboard *HMS Collingwood* to mark Captain Crawford's departure from the service. Commander J. Blackett presided.

City of Edinburgh Universities Officers Training Corps
Mr James Miller was the principal speaker at the Annual Haldane Dinner of the City of Edinburgh Universities Officers Training Corps held last night at the Old College, *Edinburgh. Lieutenant-*Colonel Ian Hamilton RE (V), commanding officer, presided.

Appointment

Sir David Landale has succeeded Sir Hugh Campbell Byatt as Chairman of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, Committee for Scotland.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Arcangelo Corelli, composer, Fusignano, Italy, 1653; René Laënnec, physician and inventor of the stethoscope, Quimper, France, 1781; Selwyn Image, painter, Bodiam, Sussex, 1849; Sir Edward German, composer, Whitchurch, Shropshire, 1862; A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, poet, journalist and author of *Waltzing Matilda*, Narambia, New South Wales, 1864.

DEATHS: Giordano Bruno, philosopher, burnt at the stake in Rome, 1600; Molière (stage name of Jean Baptiste Poquelin), playwright, Paris, 1673; James Macpherson, poet, Inverness, 1796; Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, educator, Brugg, Switzerland, 1827; William Collins, landscape painter, London, 1847; Heinrich Heine, poet, Paris, 1856; John Braham, singer and composer, London, 1856; Henry Olcott, cofounder of the Theosophical Society, Madras, 1907; Geronimo, Apache leader, Port Sill, Oklahoma, 1908; Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canadian Prime Minister 1896-1911, Ottawa, 1918; Albert I, King of the Belgians 1909-34, killed in a climbing accident in the Ardennes, 1934; Hans Hofmann, Expressionist painter, New York, 1966; Shmuel Agnon, novelist, Nobel laureate 1966, Jerusalem, 1970; Graham Sutherland, painter, 1980.

Baron Karl von Drais de Sauerbrun patented the "draisine", the forerunner of the bicycle, 1818.

A bomb exploded at the Winter Palace, St Petersburg, in an attempt to assassinate Tsar Alexander II of Russia, 1880.

The first public experimental demonstration of *Baird* colour television was transmitted from Crystal Palace to the Dominion Theatre, London, 1938.

The British Parliament voted to join the European Common Market, 1972.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Queen Mary I, reigned 1553-58, Greenwich, 1516; Count Alessandro Volta, physicist, Como, Italy, 1743; Henry Martyn, missionary, Truro, 1781; Marshall Hall, physician, Basford, Nottinghamshire, 1790; George Peabody, American philanthropist, South Danvers, Massachusetts, 1795; Ramakrishna, Hindu mystic, Hooghly, Bengal, 1836; Ernst Mach, physicist, Chirlitz-Turas, Austria, 1838; Sholem Aleichem (Solomon Rabinowitz), Yiddish and Hebrew writer, Ukraine, 1859; Tom Walls, actor-producer, Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire, 1883; Andrés Segovia, guitarist, Linares, Spain, 1894; André Breton, poet and critic, pioneer of Surrealism, Tinchebray, France, 1896; Enzo Ferrari, racing car manufacturer, Modena, 1898.

DEATHS: Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, physician and theologian, Grenoble, 1535; Martin Luther, Protestant reformer, Eisleben, Germany, 1546; Michelangelo *Buonarroti, sculptor, painter and* poet, Rome, 1564; James Corbett (Gentleman Jim), World heavyweight boxing champion 1892-97, New York, 1933; Robert Oppenheimer, physicist and pioneer of the atom bomb, Princeton, New Jersey, 1967; Luigi Dallapiccola, composer, Florence, 1975.

John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* was published, 1678.

A direct telegraph link was established between Britain and New Zealand, 1876.

The planet Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory, America, 1930.

University news

Oxford: The Brian Johnson Prize in Pathology for 1995 has been awarded to Göran Darius Hildebrand, Magdalen College.

Territorial Army

Promotions
The Ministry of Defence announces the following Territorial Army promotions effected between October 1, 1995 and December 31, 1995:

Lieutenant to Captain:
Captains D G Atwell R Wx Y, N T Barrett RGBW, T G Bennett R Irish, H D Bolton RGBW, E J Borup RGBW, I P Brownlee R Signals, M Cahill RLC, C P J Challis RGBW, T Champion BEM, C J Clarke QARANC, R M J Clements The London Regt, J J Coen RE, J D Cook RGBW, M J Cornwell R Wx Y, F Corrigan RGBW.

M E Dawson R Signals, P J F De Salis RGBW, A L Deer AAC, R J Duffy R Signals, D R Dugan RLC, J L Evans QARANC, J E Evison QARANC, R W Farenden RE, D E Fitzgerald RRF, J P B Freeland 9/12L, H G French RGBW, E W Fry RGBW, M J Garratt RGBW, C M Gillespie R Signals, D J Gillingham RGBW, D J Goddard R Signals, K J Haley Int Corps, S J Handford RRF, G Haye RTR, N E Hoareau RTR, R I Hodgman QARANC, J A Hollands RE, W D C Honey RE, R J Hooper Gen List, J R Hudson RGBW, M T E Hutchings RTR.

A D C Ibbotson LO, M Idziaseczyuk RGBW, R F Jacobs RGBW, W D C Jamieson QARANC, W Jones RLC, S J Kelson RGBW, M J Lakin RE, F E Lawrence Int Corps, R R Littlejohns AGC (SPS), C E Lloydlangston R E, J Makepeace QARANC, A W Marshall RGBW, R Mawdesley RGBW, R C McCombe Reme, J McCullins RGBW, J P Medcalf RA, D J W Miller RLC, N A Miller RRF, M Minshall Int Corps, J Mitchell RGBW, F P Moran RGBW, S R Mountney Para, B J Babavi Int Corps, I A Naismith RGV.

P E C O'Brien RGBW, A D O'Coy R Signals, I D M O'Donnell QARANC, J W O'Regan QARANC, P A O'Sullivan RGBW, W J Parrott RLC, W J C Quarterman RGBW, J N Roe Int Corps, B N H Ross QARANC, K StJ Russell R Signals, J S Scott PWRR, J W G Smith, D J Stinchcombe RE, J M Sugden RAMC, P M Swift MBE, E J Tarr RLC, M R H Thomas RBGW, M J Vertue QARANC, Capt K J Walcroft RGBW, J A B Walker RGBW, N R West RGBW, A C Wood RE.

Captain to Major
Majors G W G Bartlett PWRR, M J Boden RGBW, D Brigden HAC, S J Carroll QARANC, SM Carson RLC, C S G Cobb-Smith RA, E Craggs Reme, C H Duff RAMC, A Goodman QARANC, P J Hatton RGBW, J A Hempton QARANC, R G Hiles RGBW, I P Howard Gen List, R W Hunter RAMC, N G Mann RWF, K Melling QARANC, M P Moss AGC (ETS), C Protheroe RGBW, P B M Reynolds PWRR, A I Taverner RA, M J Taylor BW, R M C Thiele RGBW, J L Thompson AGC (SPS), M G Thompson Hldrs, A D Thornell RGBW, A A Venus RGBW, C Q O Waddell RE, D I Wilcox RE, J C Wort RGBW, L Wright GH.

Major to Lieutenant-Colonel
Lieutenant-Colonels S A Durant RGBW, V B Jassal RLC, R Murfin RE.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.F. Bawtree
and Miss Z.A. Norman
The engagement is announced between Tim, elder son of Mr and Mrs K.N. Bawtree, of Marton, Warwickshire, and Zoe, youngest daughter of Mr Ian Norman, of Twyford, Herefordshire, and Mrs Lesley Norman, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

Mr P.H.M. Binder
and Miss S.M. Clare
The engagement is announced between Peter, *elder son of Mr and* Mrs P. Binder, of Prestbury, Cheshire, and Sharon, daughter of the late Mr J.L. Clare and of Mrs D.W. Clare, of Knowle, West Midlands.

Mr C.J.J. Drinkall
and Miss G.K. Marshall
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Drinkall, of Tiverton, Devon, and Gillian, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sandy Marshall, of Woldingham, Surrey.

Mr A.T. Golds
and Miss R.A. Walsh
The engagement is announced between Adrian Trevor, only son of Mr and Mrs Trevor Golds, of Bridport, Dorset, and Roisin Anne, younger daughter of Mr Redmond Walsh and the late Mrs Eileen Walsh, of Newbury, Berkshire, and Achill Sound, Co Mayo, Eire.

Mr S.A.G. Henderson
and Miss T.M. Butler
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Henderson, of East Horsley, Surrey, and Teresa, elder *daughter of Dr and Mrs Paul* Butler, of Muswell Hill, London.

Mr J.F. Hutchinson
and Miss J.C. Shaw
The engagement is announced between James Forster, son of Mr and Mrs J.M. Hutchinson, of Rome, Italy, and Julia Caroline, youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs G.A.T. Shaw, of Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire.

Mr P.C. McLaren
and Miss K.C. Lund
The engagement is announced between Paul Coulter McLaren, of Almondbury, Huddersfield, and Kathryn Charlotte Lund, of Ponteland, Northumberland.

Mr M. Mullany
and Ms E. Eaton
The engagement is announced between Martin, youngest son of Mrs M. Mullany, of The Wirral, and Eloise, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J. Eaton, of East Prawle, Devon.

Mr N.M. Sanders
and Miss E.L. Richards
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs Tom Sanders, of Harlaxton, Lincolnshire, and Emma, daughter of Group Captain and Mrs Peter Richards, of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Church services tomorrow

Seventh Sunday before Easter
ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch. Panis Angelicus (Franck). The Provost: 6.30 ES, I lift up mine eyes (Davies). The Provost.
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 Choral C. Litany (Walton): 3.30 Choral E. Wash me throughly (Wesley).
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC: 11 Choral Euch. O sacrum convivium (Croce). Rev A Luff: 4 Choral E. Cantate Domino (Hassler).
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 M: 10.30 Euch: 10.30 Choral E. Mass for four voices (Byrd). The Provost: 4 Choral E. Faire is the heaven (Harris). Canon J Hall.
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch. The Lord bless you and keep you (Rutter). Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Choral E. Insane et vanae curae (Haydn). Canon J Simpson.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M: 11 S Euch. Jesu, the very thought (Bairstow). The Archdeacon: 3.15 E. Steal away (Tippett): 6.30 Compline. Rev Dr M Chandler.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M. 8 HC. 10.30 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Mozart). Archdeacon D Turnbull: 3 E. Hail gladdening light (Wood).
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC. The Vice Provost. 9.30 Euch, *Rev J Jones:* 11.15 S Euch. Mass for four voices (Byrd). Canon D Knight: 6 Choral E. In pace (Blitheman). The Vice Provost.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. Lord for thy tender mercy's sake (Hilton). Rev D Landreth. 11.00 S Euch. O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons). The Treasurer: 3.30 E. Lord let me know mine end (Greene).
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon. Rev Dr E Heaton: 11.15 S Euch. If ye love me (Tallis). The College Chaplain: 6 E. I will lift up mine eyes (Walker).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: 8 Communion: 10.30 Euch. Mass in C "Spaur" (Mozart). Very Rev J Petty: 3 Guides: 5.30 E. My soul there is a country (Parry).
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. Greater love (Ireland). Canon M Perry: 11.15 HC. O quam gloriosum (Victoria). The Dean: 3 E. O praise God in his holiness (Macpherson).
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch. God be in my head (Radcliffe). O sing joyfully (Batten). Rev Dr R Hughes. 3.45 E. Justorum animae (Stanford).
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.45 S Euch. Beati quorum via (Stanford). The Dean. 11.15 M. O Lord increase our faith (Loosemore). The *Precentor, 3 E. Though I speak with the* tongues of men (Bairstow): 6.30 E. Preb R Reeve.
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 9 HC. Rev R Green: 9.45 S Euch. O thou the central Orb (Wood). The Dean: 11.15 M. I was glad (Parry). Rev D Martin: 6.30 E. O God my kind (Amner). *Rev J Clark.*
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Ave Maria (Biebl). The Chancellor: 3.30 E. First Service (Sheppard).
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8.12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch. Lord for thy tender mercy's sake (Hilton). The Dean: 11.15 M. Loving shepherd of thy sheep (Rutter). The Subdean: 3.45 E. Greater love (Ireland).
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: *8 MP & HC:* 10.30 Euch. Spatzenmesse (Mozart). Canon M Boyling: 3 Choral E. Howells in B minor. Canon D Hutton: 4 HC.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L: 8.12.15 Holy Euch. Rev N Court: 9 Parish Euch. Rev J Redvers; 11 S Euch. Come Holy Ghost (Palestrina). The Dean: 3.30 Choral E. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord (Wesley): *6.30 Parish E & Sermon. Rev Dr J Baldwin.*
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP: 9 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Ubi caritas (Duruflé): 3 Unemployment: 6.30 E. By the waters of Babylon (Wills). The Dean.
NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC. The Provost: 9.30 S Euch. O sacrum convivium (Victoria). Canon I Bennett: 6 Choral E. Lord thou has been our refuge (Walker).
NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: *8 Euch. 10.30 S* Euch. Robert Ashfield in C. Be still my soul (Ashfield). 6.30 E. Harwood in A flat. Come down O love divine (Harwood).
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8 L: 8.15 HC: 9.30 M: 10.30 Euch. Verily verily I say unto you (Tallis). The Precentor: 3.30 E. Hymn to St Peter (Britten).
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. The Precentor: 10 Euch. Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow). Rev G Laker: 11.30 M. And didst thou travel light (Shephard). Canon D Slater: 3 E. Salisbury Service (Lloyd).
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 MP: 9.30 Parish C. Canon T Page: 11 Euch. The Archdeacon: 6.30 E & Sermon. The Provost.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch. Sing joyfully (Mundy). Rev H Cunliffe: 3 E. Evening Hymn (Gardiner). Rev D Painter.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L. 8 HC. 9.30 Parish C. The Vicar: 11 M. Let all the world (Leighton). The Precentor: 3.15 E. O sing unto the Lord (Tomkins).
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M. The Chancellor: 10 S Euch. Call to remembrance (Farrant). The Dean: 6 E. The Wilderness (Wesley). The Chancellor.
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon D *Baxter: 9.15 Parish C. Canon I Knox: 11* Solemn Euch. Hear my prayer (Purcell). Canon D Baxter: 4 E. Hear my prayer (Purcell). Canon C Dawson.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch. Call to remembrance (Farrant). Rev G Farran. The Chancellor: 11.30 M. O God who by the *leading of a star (Attwood):* 3 E, A Litany (Walton). Rev R Schofield.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 *M.* Set me as a seal (Walton). Canon D Gray: 11.15 Euch. Missa Brevis (Harvey). Rev B Fenton: 3 E. I waited for the Lord (Mendelssohn). Rev R Harington: 5.45 Organ Recital: 6.30 E. Canon C Semper.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7.8.9.12. 5.30.7: *10 MP: 10.30 Solemn M. Missa Vidi* speciosam (Victoria): 3.30 Solemn V&B. Magnificat octavi toni (Palestrina): 4.30 Recital.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M. Crucifixus (Lotti). Rev C Stewart; 11.30 Euch. Ave verum corpus (Mozart): 3.30 E. Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley). Rev N Crawford-Jones.
YORK MINSTER: 8. 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch. Missa *Sancti Johannis de Deo (Haydn). Rev Dr E* Norman: 11.30 M: 4 E. Though I speak with the tongues (Bairstow). Very Rev R Furnell.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC: 11 Euch, Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart). The Canon; 3.30 Choral E. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells).
ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Parish Euch. The Minor Canon: 11.15 Parish M. The Canon: 6 Parish E. The Succentor.
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8.10.6 L Mass: 11.30 Solemn M: Greater love hath no man (Ireland). Fr P Turner.
ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8.10 Morning HC. Communion Service (Leighton). The Minister: 11.30 Edinburgh University. O pray for the peace (Howells). Prof A Hastings. 6 Junior Academy students; 8 Evening. The Minister.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M. 11 S Euch. Ubi caritas et amor (Duruflé). Ven G Cassidy; 3.15 E. Greater love hath no man than this (Ireland). Rev T Thornton: 5.15 Organ Recital.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8.5.15 LM; 10.20 MP: 11 HM. Cast me not away from thy presence (Wesley). Rev I Davies: 6 E&B. Fauxbourdons (Byrd). The Vicar.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion: 11 Rev Rico Tice: 6.30 Bishop T Dudley-Smith & Orchestra.
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa brevis (Rheinberger). Praise and thanksgiving (Rheinberger). Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8.12.15 HC: 11 M. Blessed be the Lord God (Amner). Mr D *Royce: 6 E. Rev Dr P Elvy.*
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15. Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev D Townsend.
FARM STREET, W1: 7.30. 8.30. 10. 12.15. 4.15. 6.15 LM; 11 Solemn M. "Spauer" Mass K258. Laudate Dominum (Mozart), Ave Verum *Corpus (Viadana).*
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC. Mr J Jennings; 11 Informal. Mr T Stillwell: 5.7.30 Informal. Rev N Lee.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7. 8. 9. 10. 11 Mass. Missa Cellensis (Haydn). Benedixisti Domine (Gabrieli) 12.30. 4.30. 7; 3.30 V & B. Panis angelicus (Peeters).
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, Iverna *Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass. Archbishop* Y Gizirian.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 10.50 Morning. Rev P Hulme.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 10 Prayers & Meditation: 11 HC; 6.30 EP. Rev Dr P Graves.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC. Elizabeth Hess; 7 Bach Vespers. Herr Jesu Christ wahr' Mensch und Gott (Bach). Rev V Latossek.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC: 11 Choral Euch. My lovely one (Finzi): 6.30 E. O pray foer the peace of Jerusalem (Howells). The Rector.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch. Save me O God (Purcell). Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E. Regis Tersis (Shepherd). Canon J Oates.
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch. Mass for five voices (Byrd). O taste and see (Williams). Rev T Gilbert.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev C MacLeod; 6.30 Rev W Cairns.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 9.11 Masses. Jubilate Deo (Gabrieli). Ave Verum (Mozart).
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch. O Lord who hast prepared for them that love thee (Darlow). The Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch. John Paul, Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 O Sacrum Convivium (Messiaen). Rev A Meldrum; 6 Choral E. A pure river of water (Ridout).
ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch. Rev M Robins; 5.45 EP.
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C. Trumpet Minuet (Hollins). Rev J Meadway; 6.30 EP & P. Rev D Richards.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8.12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch & Thanksgiving. My beloved spake (Hadley): 6.30 E. O God, thou art my God (Purcell). Rev D Watson.
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: *8 HC;* 9.45 Family C: 11 S Euch. O Almighty God (Barcrofte). Rev T D Jones.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch. Missa brevis (Mozart). O sacrum convivium (Tallis). Canon A Harvey.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8.12.30 HC. Rev W Ratchford; 9.45 Euch. Rev B Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors. The Vicar; 2.45 Chinese. Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E. 6.30 Evening. The Vicar.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington, W8: 8.12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch. Rev F Gelli: 11.15 Choral M. The Vicar; 6.30 E. Rev F Gelli.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9.10.7 LM; 11 HM. Missa brevis, Quand lo pens (Lassus). F Pilkington: *6 Solemn E & Solemn B.*
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC: 10.30 Parish Euch. Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina). O taste and see (Williams). Rev D Jones: 6 Taize service.
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch. Missa Lumen de Lumine (Berkeley). Michael and All Angels (Gorb). The Rector.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8.9 HC: 11 Solemn Euch. Missa super osculetur me (Lassus). O Lord increase my faith (Gibbons). Rev C Courtauld.
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch. How lovely are thy dwellings fair (Brahms). Fr D Tillyer.
ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 Parish C. Missa Brevis (Caesar). The Lord is my *Shepherd (Schubert). The Lord bless you and* keep you (Rutter): 6.30 E. Rev G James.
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8.9 LM; 11 SM. Messe reginae sancti rosarii (Rheinberger). Ave Maria (Fauré). Maria Mater gratiae (Fauré). Fr N Cockling.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: 11 M & Sermon. When David heard that Absalom was slain (Weelkes). Canon J Murphy.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. My beloved spake (Hadley). Canon Sykes.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 Choral M. He that hath my commandments (Mundy): 3.30 Choral E. Let my complaint (Morley).
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Britten). The Lord is my shepherd (Schubert). Tantum ergo (Alain). Rev B Wilson.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch. The Chaplain.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. Many waters cannot quench love (Ireland). The Master.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M. Ye that do your Master's will (Gibbons). Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn). Life Guards Band. Rev Whitten; 12 HC.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: S Euch. Darke in F. All creatures of our God and King (Harris). Rev C French.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Sir Derek Andrews, civil *servant, 63; Mr Alan Bates, actor,* 62; Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP, 62; Dr Gordon Cook, former president, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 64; the Earl of Dundonald, 35; Miss Angela Eagle, MP, 35; the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT, 72; Lord Foot, 87; Mr Bernie Grant, MP, 52; Mr Douglas Hoyle, MP, 66; Mr Barry Humphries, entertainer and author, 62; Sir Gordon Jones, chairman, Yorkshire Water, *69; Mr R.P. Kennedy, Head Mas*ter, Highgate School, 47; Miss Julia McKenzie, actress and singer, 55; General Sir John Mogg, 83; Mr Norman Pace, comedian, 45; Dr Claire Palley, former Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 65; Sir Reginald Pullen, former receiver-general, Westminster Abbey, 74; Mrs Ruth Rendell, crime novelist, 66; Miss Patricia Routledge, actress, 67; Sir Michael Shersby, MP, 63; Lord Slynn of *Hadley, 66; Commandant Mary* Talbot, former director, WRNS, 74; Sir Anthony Wilson, former accountancy adviser to HM Treasury, 68.

TOMORROW: Mr Rob Andrew, rugby player, 33; Mr M Argent, Chief Constable, North Wales, 51; Mr Michael Buerk, broadcaster, 50; Miss Phyllis Calvert, actress, 81; Mr José Maria Canizares, golfer, 49; Miss Jean E. Cooke, *painter, 69; Miss Sinead Cusack,* actress, 48; Mr Roy Dean, diplomat, 69; Mr Phillip DeFreitas, cricketer, 30; Mr Len Deighton, author, 67; Lieutenant-General Sir Donald Dunstan, 73; Professor E.G. Edwards, former Vice-Chancellor, Bradford University, 82; Mr Milos Forman, film director, 64; Sir Charles Frossard, former Bailiff of Guernsey, 74; Sir Eric Gairy, former Prime Minister of Grenada, 74; Mr Graeme Garden, actor and comedian, 53; Miss Tessa Hilton, editor, *Sunday Mirror*, 45; Dr J.C. Houston, former Dean, United Medical and Dental Schools, Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital, 79; Mr Colin Jackson, athlete, 29; Sir Peter Laurence, diplomat, 73; Miss Prue Leith, cookery writer and caterer, 56; Sir Michael Lickiss, accountant, 62; Mr Peter Luff, MP, 41; Professor William McKane, former Principal, St Mary's College, St Andrews *University, 75; Sir Arthur* Norman, former chairman, World Wide Fund for Nature, UK, 79; Mr Swraj Paul, company chairman, 65; Mr Bobby Robson, former manager, England Football team, 63; Miss Cybill Shepherd, actress, 46; Mr Ned Sherrin, producer, director and writer, 65; Sir Max Williams, solicitor, 70; General Sir John Wilsey, 57.

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I shall remove the heart of stone from their bodies and give them a heart of flesh, so *that they will conform to my* statutes and keep my laws.
Ezekiel 11 : 19, 20 (REB)

BIRTHS

ALIKER - On February 10th, to Phillip and Susannah (née Thorpe), a lovely daughter, Juliette Louise, a sister for Camille.

COLEMAN - On 2nd February 1996, to Janet and Timothy, a son, Hugo Edward Oliver.

FARROW - On February 15th 1996 at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Louisa (née Hearnden) and David, a son, Edward Arthur.

GIBB - On February 11th, to Heather (née Coysh) and Nick, a son, Samuel Edward Pashley, a brother for Julia.

KELLETT - On February 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Erica (née Hibbert) and James, a wonderful son, Jake Samuel.

MANN - On 16th February 1996, to Julian and Lisa, a son, Charlie Stewart.

ODUKOYA - On February 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Olukemi (née Isijola) and Olukayode, a son, Olutokunbo, brother to Ade and Zainab.

PREECE - On 14th February 1996 at Dryburn Hospital, Durham, to Isobel (née Woods) and Clive, a son, Thomas.

RIVETT - On January 25th, to Ewa and Brian, a daughter, Miranda Constance Brader, a sister for Edward.

BIRTHS

ROBERTS - On January 14th at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, to Sara (née Donaldson), wife of Charles, a son, William James Rutherford.

WALLWORK - On February 8th, to Mary (née Lee) and Richard, a daughter, Elizabeth Stephanie Rose.

WOOLF - On February 18th 1996, to Wendy (née Pollecoff) and Jeremy, a son, Benjamin Robert Alexander.

DEATHS

BOIS - Sarah Louise (née Mansfield) peacefully at home in Guernsey February 9th 1996. Beloved wife of Piers and mother of Edward and Patrick. The funeral service took place at the Town Church on February 13th - with great affection, dignity and, indeed, humour. A Memorial Service will be held near Farnham on April 16th 1996.

CRAIG - Kay on 16th February peacefully at Home. Memorial Service on 27th February at 11:30 am *Offwell Church.*

DEATHS

HOSKING - The family of Gordon Albert F.T.I.I., F.I.S., F.S.S., F.I.A., would like you to know that he passed away peacefully on February 13th 1996 aged 88 years. For further details telephone: 0126 3712126.

ILIFFE - On Thursday 15th February at Roquebrune, Edward Langton, 2nd Baron Iliffe of Yattendon, aged 88 years. Details of funeral at Yattendon, will be announced. There will be no Memorial Service by request.

JAMIESON - Stanley passed peacefully away at home on 13th February 1996 aged 85. Service to be held at South London Crematorium Thursday 22nd February 1996 at 11.30 am. Enquiries to Dowsett & Jenkins, 7 Sunnyhill Road, SW16, tel: (0181) 769-3181.

JONES - Dennis on 14th February at home in Burbage, Leicester. A loving husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service St Mary's Parish Church, Hinckley, at 3.15 pm Monday 19th February. Family flowers only please, donations for "Imperial Cancer Research Fund Marksman Appeal" c/o G. Seller Co Ltd., Funeral Directors, 75 Upper Bond Street, Hinckley LE10 1RH, tel: (01455) 637467.

DEATHS

KEENAN - Brigadier James Desmond Seymour, late of the 17th Dogra Regiment, Indian Army, peacefully on 16th February in his 94th year. Devoted husband of the late Maisie and adored father of Moira, Brigid and Tessa and stepfather of David Mostyn. Beloved grandfather and great-grandfather. Requiem Mass at 12 noon on Monday 19th February at the Holy Trinity Church, Aldershot Road, Church Crookham, Hampshire. Flowers to Thorne-Leggett, Whitehill, Bordon, Hants.

KENNING - On 14th February, peacefully at her home, Marjorie Hilda aged 78 years. Beloved wife of the late George, very dear mother of Clare, Fiona, George and Richard and greatly loved by her 12 grandchildren. Funeral for family and friends at St Giles Church, Great Longstone on Thursday 22nd February at 2.30 pm followed by interment in the Churchyard. A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday 12th March in Chesterfield Parish Church at 11 am. Family flowers only please but donations for The North Derbyshire Macmillan Trust Fund may be sent to John Heath & Sons, Funeral Directors, Sheffield, S4 7LS.

DEATHS

MAIS - Robert Hugh suddenly in hospital on Wednesday 14th February 1996 aged 88 years, after a short illness bravely borne, the beloved husband of the late Catherine, father of Robert, brother of Dimps, Ann and the late Katharine and a much loved grandfather. Funeral on Thursday 22nd February at St Wilfrid's Church, Mobberley at 12.30pm. Family flowers only but if desired donations to the R.N.L.I. All enquiries and donations to J. Jennings & Son, Chelford Road, Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TL. tel: (01625) 584199

McCORQUODALE - Charles Paul, beloved father of *Julien*, and much loved friend, peacefully on February 16th at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital aged 48, after a long illness bravely borne. Funeral Service at St Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road, London SW7 at 12 noon on Thursday 22nd February. All enquiries to Chelsea Funeral Directors, tel: (0171) 352 0008.

McMANUS - Victor, Journalist, at home, 10th February, Feast of our Lady of Lourdes. Husband of Catherine, father of Deirdre, Siobhan, Adrian and Julian. Requiem Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon, Monday 19th February, 10am. Requiescat in Pace. Enquiries: (0181) 543-2366.

DEATHS

MORGAN - John Iver. Peacefully on 12th February 1996. Husband of Joan Mary. Thanksgiving Service in Cirencester Parish Church on 22nd February at 11.30am.

PHILLISKIRK - Maura Patricia (née Fitzpatrick) peacefully on 16th February. Loving mother of Mark and much loved by Nick and all who knew her. Funeral private.

PROTOPAPAS - On February 14th 1996, Aris, peacefully. Dearest husband of Lila. Funeral Service Russian Orthodox Cathedral, Ennismore Gardens, London SW7, on Tuesday February 20th at 10 am, followed by private cremation. Enquiries to Leverton & Sons, Funeral Directors, tel: (0171) 387-6075.

REYNELL - Rita. Passed away peacefully on the 11th February 1996 at Kestrel Grove Nursing Home, Bushey. A Cremation will take place at Golders Green Crematorium at 3.15 pm on Tuesday 20th February.

TOMLINSON - Oswald (Tommy) peacefully in York on 14th February aged 81, beloved husband of Muriel, dear father and grandfather. Funeral at York Crematorium on 21st February at 2.30 pm.

DEATHS

TREW - On 14th February 1996 in hospital John Kenneth Ormonde aged 76, dear brother of Helen. Funeral at Ipswich Crematorium on Wednesday 21st February at 2.45 pm. Enquiries to Tony Brown Funeral Services, Saxmundham. Donations if desired to Friends of Aldeburgh Community Hospital.

VELLA - Maud on 16th February aged 95 years, widow of Col. Victor Vella and dear mother of Magda.

WADHAM - Nicholas George Gilbert, dearly loved son of Ro and Julie and devoted father of Rohan, Jack and Susie, suddenly on Monday February 12th aged 39. Funeral on Tuesday February 27th at 1 pm at St Philip's Church, Kirtling, near Newmarket. No flowers please.

WALTER - Sybil Kathleen on 15th February 1996 peacefully at home, devoted wife of the late Revd. Cecil Walter, much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at St Dunstan's Church, Frinsted, near Sittingbourne. 2.30 pm Friday 23rd February. Family flowers only. Donations may be sent for "The Heart of Kent Hospice" to Mrs Molly Poulter, The Oast, Street Farm, Ulcombe, Kent ME17 1DP.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

ALLER - Winifred. In ever loving memory of my darling Sister (Bunny) who died on February 18th 1986 - Dorothy.

FIELDHOUSE - John, love you now and always darling. The days are long until we meet again. Midge.

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هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN

Sir George Trevelyan, teacher and New Age thinker, died on February 7 aged 89. He was born on November 5, 1906.

AN ELDER statesman of the New Age movement, Sir George Trevelyan saw the mission of his later years as an "exploration into God". From the moment when in 1942 he first tagged along to a lecture given by one of Rudolph Steiner's students — "I have no doubt", he later said, "that this event in my life was staged by higher destiny, and that the time was ripe for a leap in consciousness" — he began to work towards the promotion of an alternative spirituality.

Trevelyan spoke with inspiration of the planet Earth as "a living being, in a living universe . . . a universe which is a great ocean of life and thought". Alongside such ideas as communal living and organic farming, he explored beliefs in angels and the purified vision of the unicorn, the power of ley lines, and the calming effects of crystals. In 1971 he set up the Wrekin Trust to promote spiritual knowledge and education, and take the New Age message to the world. Annually he would convene a "Round Table" conference — appropriate perhaps for a man whose family coat of arms linked him to Sir Trevillian, one of King Arthur's legendary knights — for the leaders of healing centres and holistic organisations.

He was much involved in the Findhorn Foundation in Moray, an international experiment in community living, and with the Gatekeeper and Open Gate trusts for the reawakening of pilgrimages to sacred places. In 1982 he was awarded the "alternative Nobel Prize" the Right Livelihood award, for his work towards "healing the planet".

During his younger years, however, Trevelyan had been an agnostic, committed to the rational, analytical view that man is a mere collocation of atoms — a chance happening in a random universe. Perhaps it is hard to believe that someone who embodied so many spiritual aspirations could have held on to such a materialist view for so long, but this view was deeply entrenched in his family. His uncle, the historian George Macaulay Trevelyan, was an aggressive agnostic, as was his father, an MP who served in two Labour Cabinets.

Trevelyan's appreciation of the natural world, however, was rooted in his youth. He spent his childhood divided between London and his father's estate in Northumberland where he passed long days roaming wild on the moors, and at school in Sidcot in the Mendip Hills he found a passion for exploring caves.

At Trinity College, Cambridge, where Trevelyan read history, he succeeded his father as Master of the Lake Hunt, otherwise known as the Trevelyan Man Hunt — an unorthodox chase over the Lakeland fells in pursuit of a human hare — which had been begun in 1898 by his historian uncle together with George Winthrop Young. Though in later years Trevelyan was painfully crippled by arthritis, he could still look back with pride on his 42-year association with this hunt and the days when he could outrun the whole pack downhill.

Trevelyan first considered a career in architecture but turned to craftsmanship instead. He was apprenticed for two years in a furniture workshop at Chalford in Gloucestershire under the direction of Peter Waals who worked in a tradition inspired by William Morris. While there he made some fine pieces of furniture, including the bed he was to sleep in for the rest of his life, and in old age he would run his hand and eye lovingly over the lines and chamfers of furniture which he had designed and collected.

Following this period of craftsmanship, Trevelyan threw himself into a three-year training course with F. Matthias Alexander whom he had met at Cambridge. He was captivated by the vision of wholeness which animated Alexander's technique and taught these methods himself for a while before coming into contact with another charismatic figure Kurt Hahn, the founder of Gordonstoun School.

Trevelyan went to Gordonstoun to teach history, literature, woodwork and outdoor pursuits. While there, he began to think about the possible use of England's great country houses as centres of adult education, with his mind on such a scheme for Wallington, the Trevelyan family home in Northumberland. This idea stayed with him throughout the war, which he spent as a captain in the Rifle Brigade, based in Scotland and occupied in training the Home Guard. After the war he worked in the art department of the Army College at Dalkeith to equip himself with skills in adult education.

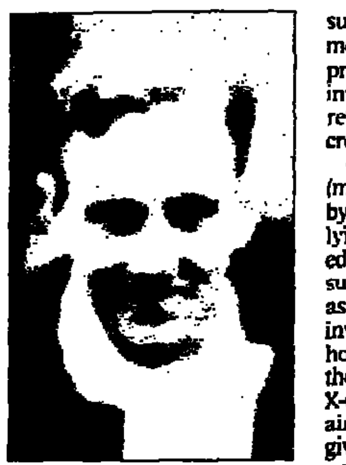
Trevelyan's hopes of using Wallington as a college were dashed when his father made a settlement whereby the estate would pass to the National Trust on his death. But in 1947 Trevelyan was appointed principal of the newly-created Shropshire Adult College at Attingham Park. During his 24 years there he developed a wide programme of activities, placing great emphasis upon creative activity and upon finding within each subject the integrating ideas which would relate it to a wider context. He attracted leading speakers, arranged concerts and took an active part in almost every course himself whether it was "Historic Houses of Britain", "Finding the Inner Teacher", or "Death and Becoming".

Throughout this time Trevelyan had been developing his interest in spiritual matters. Influenced by the thought of Rudolph Steiner, he invited speakers of the Anthroposophical Society to Attingham. Although this caused some tremors in the Shropshire County Council, the courses on "Frontiers of Reality" or "Spiritual Awakening" drew large and enthusiastic audiences among which were some of the future leaders of the New Age movement.

Retiring from Attingham in 1971, Trevelyan determined to build on these New Age contacts by setting up the Wrekin Trust — named after the hill near Attingham. The last 15 years of his active life were spent on a ceaseless round of travel and New Age gatherings. He published books, tapes and videos outlining his beliefs, drawing widely on his quite extraordinary knowledge of poetry in his efforts to expand the consciousness of his listeners.

George Trevelyan married Helen Lindsay-Smith, then a teacher at Gordonstoun, in 1942. She died in 1993. He is survived by their daughter.

GEOFF GALWEY



Geoff Galwey, trainer of naval beach reconnaissance parties during the Second World War, died on January 17 aged 83. He was born on May 1, 1912.

AS A young seaman in the Royal Navy, Geoff Galwey had contracted rheumatic fever and was invalided out of the service. Disregarding medical orders, however, Galwey found himself a post as a trainer of beach landing parties, one of Mountbatten's handpicked team of Combined Operations Pilotage Parties (COPP). In this capacity he contributed an immense amount to the success of naval reconnaissance operations during the war.

Born in India, Geoffrey Valentine Galwey joined the Royal Navy at Dartmouth at the age of 13. But in 1930 he was invalided out of the Navy. Back in civilian life, he got a job selling advertising space on the *Hardware Trade Journal* and in 1935 joined Lovell and Rupert Curtis, a Fleet Street advertising agency, later becoming a director.

With war threatening in 1938, he enlisted in the London River Auxiliary Fire Service. Rejected by the RNVR on medical grounds at the start of the war, he joined the crew of A. P. Herbert's *Water Gipsy*, based on the Thames. Realising that *Water Gipsy* was unfit to cross the Channel to Dunkirk, Galwey and two fellow crew members applied to the Admiralty for another boat and set off down the Thames. But the boat was turned back at the Nore as being unseaworthy and Dunkirk was over before they could get across.

By 1941 Galwey was commissioned into the RNVR, but was officially certified by an Admiralty medical board as fit for "home, shore and harbour services only". But after acting as a flag lieutenant in Orkney, he was recommended to Mountbatten and was soon swimming in the cold waters of Scotland, training beach landing parties for COPP. Their job was to explore enemy-held beaches selected for invasion to see if they were mined, if the shingle could support the weight of tanks, and if there were proper exits from the beach.

In January 1943 Galwey was instructed to find and equip a training base for COPP, and he requisitioned the Hayling Island Sailing Clubhouse, ideally situated on its isolated peninsula in Chichester Harbour.

Galwey turned his creative skills to constant innovations for these stealthy operations. Six months before D-Day at dead of night on New Year's Eve 1943, swimmers from two tiny landing craft reconnoitred the Normandy beaches. In biting winds, they and the boat crews became incapacitated by seasickness and exposure, nearly losing their equipment which might have compromised the entire Allied invasion plans. That they all returned with their gear was credited largely to Galwey.

On D-Day itself, two X-craft (midget submarines), manned by Galwey-trained men, were lying submerged off the selected invasion beaches ready to surface at dawn and guide the assault craft in. When the invasion was postponed for 24 hours because of a bad weather forecast the crews of the X-craft could have run out of air, been forced to surface and given the element of surprise away, but Galwey had filled the submarines' inflatable dinghies with oxygen instead of the usual carbon dioxide, enabling the men to refresh their air supply and survive.

Galwey himself came over on a motor launch to help navigate and rendezvous with one of the X-craft. Top-secret at the time, the X-craft played a crucial role in guiding in the armadas of assault craft in the greatest seaborne invasion in history. The Americans declined the Navy's offer of X-craft for their beaches as being too risky and suffered near-crippling losses when the tide carried their boats towards the most heavily defended area instead of the beach chosen.

In 1945 Galwey returned to Lovell and Rupert Curtis, retiring in 1977. He also wrote three novels: *Murder on Leave* (1947), *The Lift and the Drop* (1948) and *Full Fathom Five* (1951); and one play, *Babel* (1970), which successfully toured in Canada.

In 1978 he retired happily to the coast of Suffolk. He is survived by his second wife, Joan, a daughter from his first marriage, and a son from the second.

MARGARET COURTENAY

Margaret Courtenay, actress, died on February 15 aged aged 72. She was born on November 14, 1923.

AN ACTRESS whose evident talents would permit her to range from Lady Bracknell (a role which, curiously, she seems never to have played) to Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Margaret Courtenay was clearly strong on authority. Whatever stage she was on, even in a relatively small role, she was certain to dominate it.

This was partly because of her statuesque presence and her reverberant voice, guaranteed to reach the back of any dress circle without the aid of a microphone. But perhaps even more it was the projection of her own personality. One look at her, and you knew immediately who was in charge. Since words like "battleaxe" and "harridan" were likely to be evoked by virtually any role she played, it was not unexpected that she specialized almost exclusively in comedy.

She was every man's stereotypical nightmare mother-in-law, straight out of a Donald McGill postcard or an Aldwych farce. But she could, and did, also play a variety of Shakespearian characters who might boss but did not necessarily intimidate, like Mistress Quickly in Henry V or Juliet's Nurse, and she could be quietly chilling when she wanted to be, as in a memorable appearance as Mrs Railton-Bell in Rattigan's *Separate Tables*. A rather similar quality came out when she played Lady Hayling in a revival of Coward's *Relative Values* in 1993, as the epitome of icy superiority.

In her personal relations she was not so unlike her stage persona. She knew what she wanted and was more than ready to stand up for her right to get it. She was one of those people who proverbially do not suffer fools gladly. However, she was also disarmingly able to see the joke of her own bossy ways, and had a very nice line of her own in wry humour.

And, it had to be admitted, when she stood out fiercely for something to be done or done differently or not done at all in the theatre, she generally knew what she was talking about. She was a great scene-stealer, but in general not unkindly so: her natural exuberance on stage would carry her away (in certain respects she would have been as good casting for the title role in the musical *Mame* as for Vera Charles, whom nevertheless she played to the manner born), but infrequently to the detriment of the production as a whole. And sometimes, it must be admitted, she appeared in shows which desperately needed her aid.

She had a remarkably long career, primarily in the theatre, though she also appeared from time to time on the large and the small screen. She was born in Cardiff, child of a travelling salesman specializing in farm equipment and a mother who was an enthusiastic amateur actress. It was through the mother that she came to make her first appearance on stage, at the age of seven, in a Cardiff Little Theatre production of *The Trojan Women*.

She always seemed naturally destined for an acting career, and started on radio while she was still at grammar school, before going on as a matter of course to study at LAMDA. She made her way from there by the traditional route of seaside rep (at Bexhill-on-Sea), a couple of seasons with the Memorial Theatre Company (as it then was) at Stratford, and then to London with the Old Vic, for whom she played, most notably, Hippolyta in an ambitious production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which toured North America.

During her next three seasons at the Old Vic she played, while in her early thirties, such roles as Gertrude, Goneril and Lady Capulet, having clearly established the image which was to stay with her for the rest of her professional life. She was, even then, much more versatile that this might lead one to suppose. She was able, for instance, to appear in Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Glyndebourne in 1961, and her strong musical sense and powerful singing voice subsequently stood her in good stead in several musicals, including *Showboat*, *Follies* and *42nd Street*.

Nor would she have seemed, on the face of it, obvious casting for contemporary plays as various as *Alfie*, Genet's *The Maids* and *The Killing of Sister George*. Indeed, though Albee's Martha in *Virginia Woolf* is the modern termagant of all modern termagants, the sexual dimension of the role, definitively embodied by Elizabeth Taylor in the film version, did not seem to fit her skills at all. Yet those who saw her playing the character at the Bristol Old Vic were universally impressed.

Later she played a succession of predictable roles in such classic comedies as *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *The Rivals*, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, *The Admirable Crichton* and *Dandy Dick*, as well as more modern plays like *Hadrian VII* and *Habeas Corpus*. She became the recognised expert in giving nice big performances in nice little parts. If she ever did wonder where else her career might have gone if she had not been placed so early in such a comfortable niche, she never let on.

She married Ivan Pinfield and had one son; the marriage was later dissolved.

SHAMUS CULHANE

THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

Shamus Culhane, animator and author, died in New York City on February 2 aged 87. He was born in Ware, Massachusetts, on November 12, 1908.

WALT Disney was not at all sure about employing Shamus Culhane when the young man applied for a job in 1935. Culhane was a competent animator, but he had spent ten years learning his skills in the mass-production cartoon factories of the East Coast, working for the pioneers J. R. Bray and Max Fleischer on such characters as Betty Boop. Disney, who at that time was trying to instil a sense of aesthetics into his animators, feared that the experience might have destroyed Culhane's skill and sense of subtlety.

Disney, however, was wrong. Put to work on the 1937 production of *Snow White*, Culhane proved his worth by creating a famous scene for the seven dwarfs. "Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it's off to work we go," became a recognised classic of the animator's art, and Culhane capped it with his work on *Pinocchio* in which he drew the fox and cat selling Pinocchio to the Pleasure Island coachman. Culhane also worked on Disney's Pluto, a creation which, as he himself described it, caught the "essence of dog".

Culhane admired Disney's quest for perfection, though he had reservations about his commercialism, but he was too pugnacious and forthright a character to be tied for long to any one master. Over a period of 62 years he was to work for 18 companies in all, including his own.

After his time with Disney he returned briefly to the Fleischer studio in 1939 before going to work for Walter Lanz who had got him his first job as an office boy with J. R. Bray in 1924. Lanz allowed Culhane's creativity full rein, permitting him to experiment as he pleased. Now a director as well as an animator, Culhane produced a Woody Woodpecker cartoon entitled *The Barber of Seville* which has been ranked by critics as one of the best ever made. His Andy Panda cartoon *Fish Fingers* was nominated for an Academy Award in 1945.

After the Second World War, Culhane set up his own studio producing educational films, television commercials, and a ground breaking animated title sequence for *Around the World in Eighty Days*. But the venture went bankrupt in 1957 and Culhane was forced to survive as a freelance for several years before getting a job with Hal Seeger Productions in New York City, and later with the Paramount studios. In 1967 he rebuilt his own company, this time with lasting success.

At the age of 78 Culhane turned to writing. He had already produced numerous screenplays for animated films; now he published an autobiography *Talking Animals and Other People*, an unsparing view of the often squalid world of the animated film industry — an industry subject to brutal internal politics and harsh labour relations. Culhane's depictions of some of those he met were hardly flattering: "pompous pipsqueak" and "humanoid aberration" were just two of his more choice descriptions.

But Culhane's overall outlook was optimistic. "I was a link with the past," he wrote, "before sound, colour or tape. I had been permitted to live long enough to see and use the greatest tools for artists that were ever invented. I am convinced that computer animation will produce beautiful works of art — beautiful beyond our most fantastic dreams."

In 1988 Culhane published a well-received textbook on his art, *Animation from Script to Screen*.

Twice married, he is survived by Juana, his wife of 36 years, and by two sons.

ON THIS DAY

February 17, 1885

There were loud shouts of "Down with Royalty" when a speaker at this demonstration stated that "Princess Beatrice [youngest child of Queen Victoria] was about to marry a German pauper who was going to receive £20,000 a year of Englishmen's money".

DEMONSTRATION OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

Yesterday afternoon three or four thousand of the unemployed of London held a demonstration on the Embankment, near Cleopatra's Needle, and afterwards marched to Westminster, carrying banners, on which were inscribed "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," "Vox populi vox Dei," and other mottoes. From Whitehall a large number of the crowd passed into Downing-street, near the Premier's residence, where a Cabinet meeting was being held at the time; but at the request of the police, of whom an extra force were in attendance, the crowd moved round to King-street, where they were addressed in somewhat inflammatory terms by some of their leaders, who wore red badges. One speaker clung to the top of a lamp-post, and thence harangued the crowd; another spoke from a window-sill.

Meantime, in the absence of Sir Charles Dilke, who was at the Cabinet meeting, Mr. G. W. Russell, Parliamentary secretary of the Local Government Board, received a small deputation of the leaders. They urged that, in view of the widespread destitution owing to the large number of unemployed, the Board should insist upon local authorities carrying out public work of a necessary and useful kind in their respective districts, so as to afford some employment to those who were starving in enforced idleness: also that the hours of work on railways, at arsenals, dockyards, and other public establishments should be reduced in order that work might be found for a greater number of hands. One of the speakers complained that the Government should be willing to spend probably 16 or 18 millions sterling fo the relief of Khartoum and yet refuse to take the initiative in having even one million spent by local authorities for the benefit of those who had mainly to pay the heavy war taxes. In view of the many thousands who were starving, the speakers said they could not be answerable for the consequences if a remedy was not soon found.

Mr. RUSSELL expressed sympathy with those who were suffering distress on account of want of employment. The Government could not interfere with the hours of labour in the case of such independent enterprises as railways. The public arsenals, dockyards, and such public departments were, on the other hand, under the management of departments over which the Local Government Board had no control.

A correspondent writes:—At the door of the Local Government Board offices a small detachment of the A Division of police were stationed under the immediate direction of Superintendent Gernon and Inspector Beard, and the officers had considerable difficulty in preventing an invasion of the building. It was a quarter past 3 when the deputation was admitted, and during the interview, which lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes, the crowd outside showed symptoms of turbulence which the police had great difficulty in keeping in check. On several occasions there was an ugly rush made to force an entrance into the Local Government offices, but without success. For a while, order was maintained by a speech from one of the leaders of the demonstration, who, mounted on a lampost (*sic*), counselled the crowd to keep quiet. His speech in other respects was of a somewhat inflammatory character, and when he mentioned that the Princess Beatrice was about to be married to a German pauper, who, he said, was going to receive £20,000 a year of Englishmen's money, there were loud shouts of "Down with Royalty" . . .

Another orator made a second appeal for order, but by this time the crowd began to be impatient, and an attempt was made to break down a wooden fence . . . The police did not draw their truncheons: the crowd ran away on seeing the determination of the police to suppress disorder.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Brochure: Mrs Kershaw. 01565 733483

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TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ALDO ATTILLIO FALLA late of 54 Sackville Gardens, Hove, East Sussex. Boarding House Proprietor (Retired) Died: 12th December 1995. Particulars to: ADRIAN AUBREY MARKS & DAVID FREEDMAN, Executors of ALDO ATTILLIO FALLA. c/o Samuels Marks Freedman & Netfield, 37 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AR before 19th April 1996.

HARRIS, Ida Millicent late of 538 [illegible] Leys Lane, Leicester. Died on 23rd December 1995. Particulars to Philip J. Hammond & Sons, Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane, Leicester LE1 5QX (Ref: KMC) before 18th April 1996.

HILARY FANNY WOOD late of 10A Latymer Court, London W6 died on 11th June 1995. Particulars to Geoffrey Posner & Co Solicitors of 32 High Street, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex CM0 8AF before 23rd April 1996.

MOSCHINI MILENA of 36 Danbrook Road, London SW16 6DX died on 27 October 1994. Particulars to Shaw & Croft (Ref: RXC), Solicitors of 115 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7BU (tel: 0171 283 6293) before 23rd April 1996.

TRUSTEE ACTS

ROSS, MARY EDITH of 16 Fir Tree Avenue, West Drayton, Middlesex died on 22nd December 1995. Particulars to Gordon Dadds Solicitors of 80 Brook Street, Mayfair, London W1Y 2DD (Ref: Attn: M. Tunstead Esq.) before 18th April 1996.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COCKERRY Elizabeth Margaret Mackenzie. Remember "Peacock Pie" given to Nigel in September '47. Please write. Alncne Jane. Please Reply to Box No 5156

YOUR WILL
If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
Enquiries to
The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

ANIMALS IN NEED
Please help us give compassionate care to [illegible] cats and dogs and [illegible] whose owners have died or are seriously ill. Our sanctuary provides daily [illegible] walks for dogs, also a rehoming service in the [illegible]. We spay not slay.
Donations to:
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(Reg Charity No [illegible]).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Please help by sending a donation to:-
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BURSTOW,
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هكذا في الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 1996

NEWS

£1m reward in hunt for bombers

■ *A million-pound reward for the capture of the Docklands* bombers was offered by Scotland Yard as hundreds of armed police raided more than 30 addresses in the hunt for the IRA terrorists.

John Grieve, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said the reward was being offered by "members of the community" and he hoped that it would tempt people in the underworld to come forward with information .... **Pages 1, 2**

Intelligence shake-up after Scott

■ Changes in the handling of intelligence in Whitehall and measures to reduce secrecy have been ordered by John Major after sharp criticism in the Scott report .... **Pages 1, 10**

Outlook freezing

Britain is facing more Arctic weather over the weekend with widespread snowfalls and freezing conditions .... **Page 1**

Oil spill fight

Salvage experts aboard a crippled supertanker struggled to prevent a catastrophe on the coastline of west Wales .... **Page 1, 4**

Newspaper accused

The *Daily Mail* has been accused of bank-rolling Nick Leeson, the rogue trader who brought down Barings Bank .... **Page 2**

Retirement bonus

A judge took pity on an ageing jewel thief when he promised to retire after almost half a century of international crime .... **Page 3**

Cost of noise

Rowdy neighbours face £40 fines and the confiscation of hi-fi equipment if they refuse to tone down their revelry under a Bill supported *by the Commons* .... **Page 5**

Down the drain

South West Water has lost hundreds of millions of gallons from a reservoir serving an area still affected by drought .... **Page 9**

Don jailed

A don jailed for two years for stealing rare books from libraries was ordered to pay £160,000 compensation .... **Page 11**

Divided Europe

The move to monetary union could divide Europe if it is not launched with a consensus of Britain and the other big EU members, says the favourite to be Spain's Prime Minister .... **Page 12**

Nato raiders

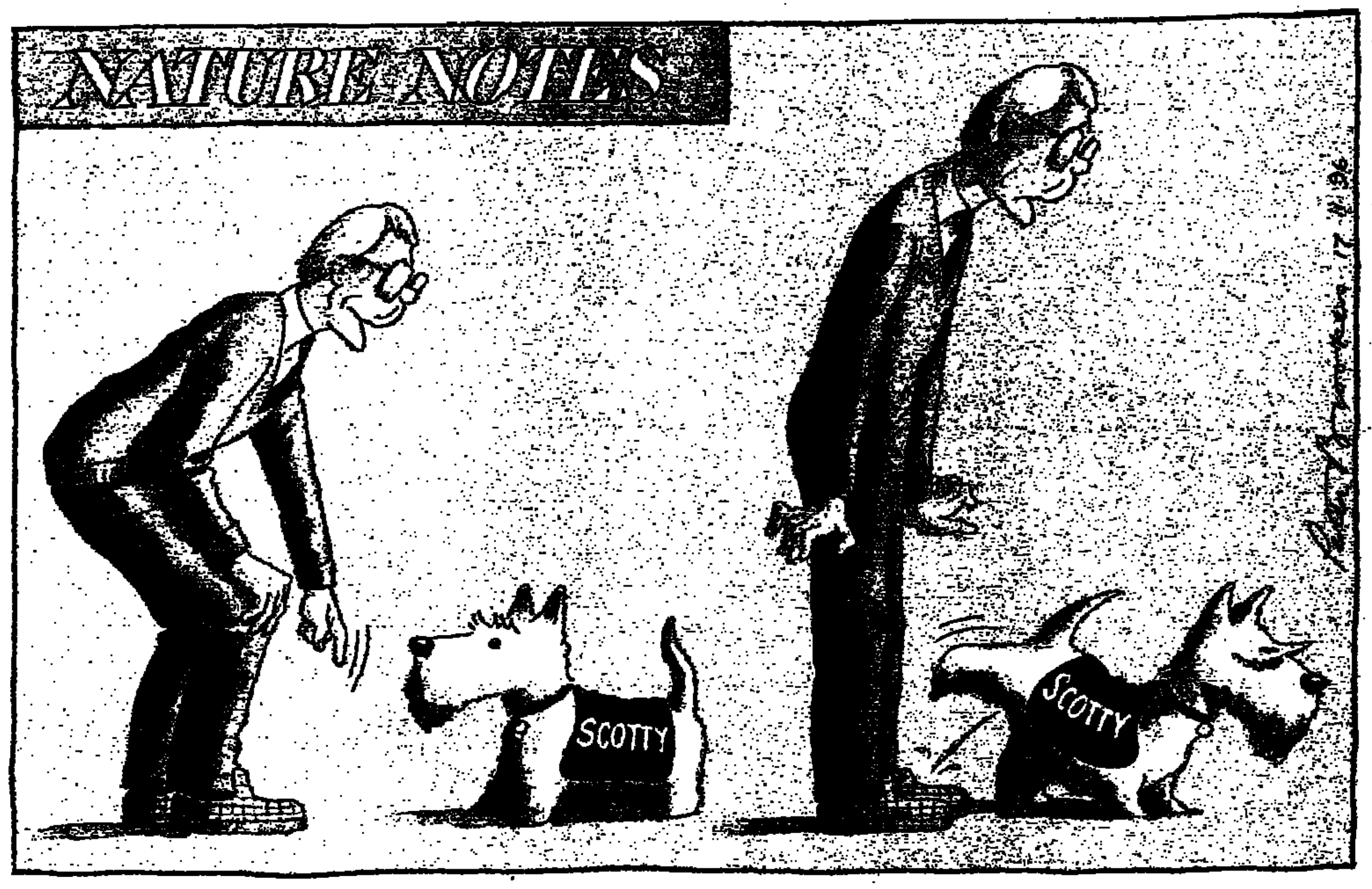
Nato forces claimed to have raided a terrorist training camp 20 miles west of Sarajevo .... **Page 13**

Buchanan surprise

Pat Buchanan, the right-wing populist, could beat Robert Dole in the critical New Hampshire primary .... **Page 16**

Pass further round the world

■ An Oxford bus company has recruited 30 drivers from Australia after it failed to attract enough qualified staff in Britain. The first two will be wishing passengers *G'day* on routes between the city centre and Kidlington next week following their flights from the 35C (95F) heat of Brisbane .... **Page 1**



OPINION

War crimes tightrope: It is easier to detain a small number of readily identifiable war criminals than it is to sift through communities. Guilt in Bosnia is commonplace: that is why Goldstone walks a tightrope .... **Page 23**

Cherry-pickers: The Scott report is a book to take to the desert island along with the Bible and Shakespeare. For it will provide a quote for every season and taste ...... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Scott; snails; countryside; car lights; TV sport ...... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Bernard Levin: Try using decent wages for those who have none. Meanwhile, remember those words: You never tip an equal .... **Page 22**

Vernon Bogdanor: The deepest lesson of Scott is that Parliament is in danger of losing its capacity to bring ministers to account .... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Sir George Trevelyan, New Age thinker; **Margaret Courtenay**, actress; **Geoff Galwey**, trainer of naval beach reconnaissance parties; **Shamus Culhane**, animator .. **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Lloyds TSB: Pre-tax profits fell 8 per cent to £1.65 billion last year, dented by a £425 million exceptional cost of putting the banks together in the next four years ... **Page 27**

Economy: The Government repaid £3.7 billion in borrowing in January but corporation tax receipts disappointed and the City said that the Chancellor will overshoot his borrowing target...... **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 8.9 to 3,370.9. Sterling rose to 84.3 after a rises from $1.5375 to $1.5481 and DM2.2617 to DM2.2622 .... **Page 30**

[illegible]

Rugby union: Despite Scotland's meagre record in Cardiff — four victories since the Second World War — they are reluctant favourites to beat Wales .... **Page 52**

Cricket: Gary Kirsten scored 188 not out as South Africa trounced the United Arab Emirates by 169 runs. West Indies beat Zimbabwe by six wickets .... **Page 46**

Football: Jamie Redknapp, the Liverpool and England midfield player, will miss the FA Cup match at Shrewsbury after a recurrence of a hamstring injury .... **Page 52**

[illegible]

Lumière centenary: 100 years after the Lumière brothers established the first public cinema in Britain, the event is being recreated on the same Regent Street site..... **Page 19**

Who's who: Coming to London next month, having won acclaim and big audiences on Broadway, is the new stage version of the Who's rock musical: *Tommy* .... **Page 21**

[illegible]

Taking to the road in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

MAGAZINE

Mean streets: Meeting Martin Scorsese

On trial: The French establishment in the dock

Victoria Abril bares all

WEEKEND

Clintons' Tale: An anonymous insider has written a

cult novel about the campaign trail .... **Pages 1, 3**

Books: Marsha Hunt's tale of prejudice..... **Page 6**

10 15

Game boy: Meeting Jamie Redknapp .... **Page 6**

Win five days at the Bobby Charlton School ...... **Page 3**

VISION

Under the Sun: Senior citizens spending their kids' inheritance.

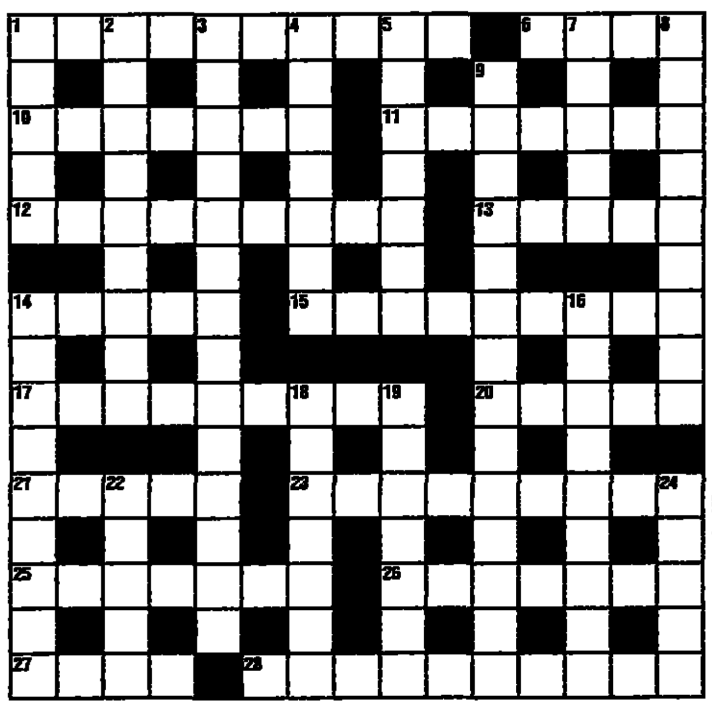
Top film: The epic *Once Upon a Time in America.*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,093

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



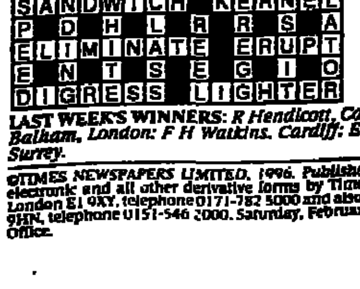
ACROSS

1 *Railwaymen in county finally* couple this tender (5,5).
6 Cheerful little flower (4).
10 Sweden somehow keeps one upright (7).
11 Causing injury in sport I mind (7).
12 This poor people's home reported in magazine? (9).
13 Scratch and bark — and feed (5).
14 He may give vital fluid for fellow-soldiers (5).
15 German province has money for *conspicuous objects* (9).
17 Copper producer's note on profit as stated (9).
20 Accommodation in small dwelling with leaseback (5).
21 Leap over net (5).
23 River figuring in college's watery accidents (9).
25 Down payment for eastern trip (7).
26 Fence with Romeo, initially, showing ill-feeling (7).
27 Blue or white flower (4).
28 Publicity for irreligious lawyer in America (10).

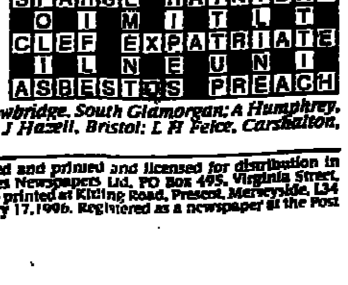
DOWN

1 *Girl left out a tablet* (5).
2 Bad oil men in reshuffle of the corporation (9).
3 Loud instrument, easy to carry inside black box (6-8).
4 A tie is never so asymmetrical (7).
5 Operator has to increase power being used (7).
7 Sponge as a dessert is passed up (5).
8 Get a number to admit free press is spreading (9).
9 Looking for pride in, say, cup final quest (3,4,7).
14 Can a model reform under threat of suspension? (9).
16 Holding back about stress, reportedly (9).
18 Writer is one who charges when speaking (7).
19 For example, love to engage in promotion of oneself (3-4).
22 Admit abandoned sweetheart who's turned up (5).
24 Sergeant major accepts soldier getting upset over a letter (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,087



Solution to Puzzle No 20,092



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *R Hendicott, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan; A Humphrey, Balham, London; F H Watkins, Cardiff; E J Hazell, Bristol; L H Felce, Carshalton, Surrey.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
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National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.12 am — Sun sets: 5.18 pm

Moon sets 3.47 pm — Moon rises 5.51 am

New Moon tomorrow

London 5.18 pm to 7.10 am
Bristol 5.28 pm to 7.20 am
Edinburgh 5.20 pm to 7.33 am
Manchester 5.22 pm to 7.23 am
Penzance 5.43 pm to 7.29 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.10 am — Sun sets: 5.20 pm

Moon sets 5.07 pm — Moon rises 6.28 am

New moon today

London 5.20 pm to 7.08 am
Bristol 5.30 pm to 7.18 am
Edinburgh 5.22 pm to 7.31 am
Manchester 5.24 pm to 7.21 am
Penzance 5.44 pm to 7.27 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	-	-	12.22	6.5
Aberdeen	11.51	4.2	-	-
Avonmouth	5.38	12.6	5.57	13.0
Belfast	3.38	3.5	[illegible]	3.4
Cardiff	5.37	11.4	6.04	11.7
Devonport	4.06	5.2	4.32	5.2
Dover	9.44	6.3	[illegible]	6.5
Dublin (N Wall)	0.00	3.9	12.22	[illegible]
Falmouth	3.34	4.9	4.05	[illegible]
Greenock	11.13	3.4	11.37	3.2
Harwich	10.12	3.8	10.35	3.9
Holyhead	8.50	5.5	9.22	5.6
Hull (Albert D)	4.41	6.9	4.51	7.3
Ilfracombe	4.25	8.9	4.52	9.0
King's Lynn	4.37	6.4	4.59	6.5
Leith	0.44	5.2	1.07	5.3
Liverpool	9.43	9.3	10.12	9.4
Lowestoft	7.58	2.3	8.03	2.5
Margate	10.42	4.5	11.21	4.6
Milford Haven	4.41	6.6	5.06	6.8
Newquay	3.34	6.5	4.01	6.7
Oban	4.31	3.2	4.54	3.7
Penzance	3.07	5.3	3.33	5.5
Portland	5.08	1.9	5.42	1.3
Portsmouth	9.43	4.6	10.19	4.7
Shoreham	9.48	6.3	10.13	6.2
Southampton	9.13	4.4	9.46	4.5
Swansea	4.44	9.0	5.12	9.1
Tees	2.06	5.0	2.24	5.2
Walton-on-Naze	10.08	4.0	10.31	4.2

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.55in; highest sunshine: Leuchars, Fife, 8.8hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a dry, bright start with sunny intervals especially in the south. Cloud will spread from the north during the day, with rain reaching many northern parts by afternoon. In the evening the rain is expected to reach southern counties. Still mild but the wind will become quite fresh.

Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have outbreaks of rain, although northeast Scotland should start bright with wintry showers. Some heavy rain is likely during the course of the day with snowfall for the Scottish mountains. Windy, with gales in places.

☐ **London, SE, Central S, SW England, E Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Isles:** bright start. Becoming cloudy. Rain in evening. Wind northwest becoming southwest fresh. *Max 9C (48F).*

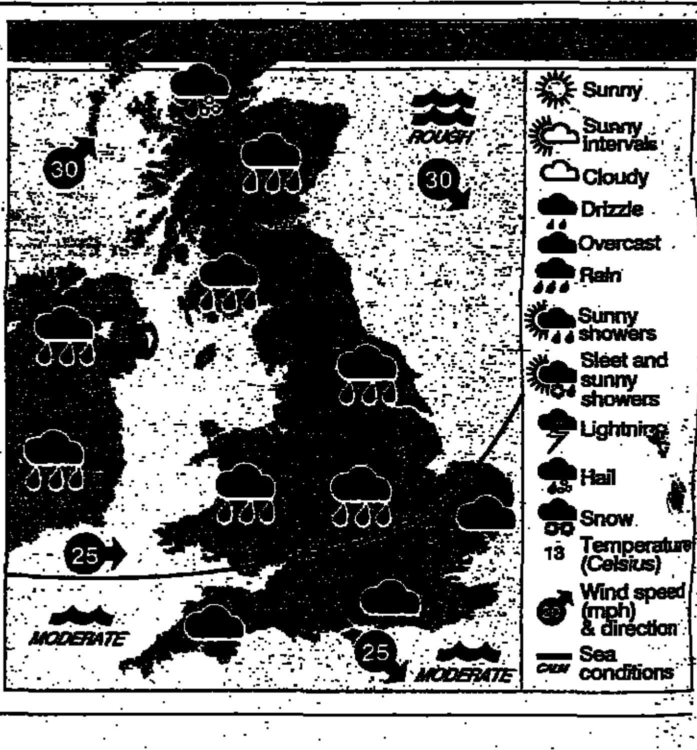
☐ **E, NW, Cent N, NE England, W Midlands, Wales, Lake District:** mostly cloudy. Rain spreading south, some heavy later. Wind west to northwest strong. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **IoM, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland:** patchy rain turning heavier later. Wind west to northwest fresh, becoming southwest strong later. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Central Highlands, NW Scotland:** outbreaks of rain, some heavy. Snow over mountains later. Wind west to southwest strong to gale becoming northwest later. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** wintry showers dying out. Heavier rain later. Wind north to northwest fresh becoming southeast later. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** Windy. Becoming colder *with rain turning increasingly to snow.*



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

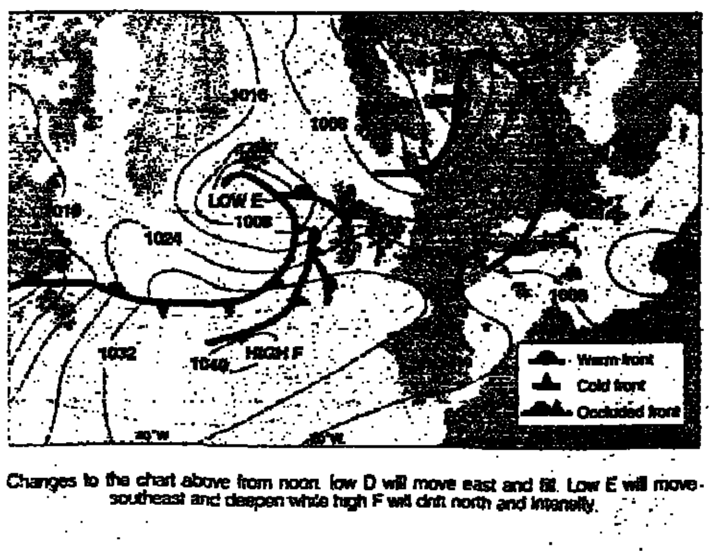
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.6	-	8	46	s	Lerwick	1.5	0.13	6	43	h
Anglesey	4.8	0.02	10	50	b	Leuchars	8.8	-	8	46	s
Aspatria	3.0	0.05	8	46	sh	Littlehmptn	4.8	-	12	54	s
Aviemore	2.8	0.35	6	43	h	Liverpool	5.0	0.04	9	48	s
Belfast	3.3	0.02	9	48	sh	London	3.8	-	13	55	s
Birmingham	5.0	-	11	52	s	Lowestoft	3.6	0.03	11	52	s
Bognor R	4.9	-	11	52	b	Manchester	4.7	0.24	10	50	r
Bournem'th	-	-	12	54	s	Margate	3.8	-	12	54	b
Bristol	5.0	-	12	54	s	Minehead	4.9	-	12	54	s
Buxton	3.6	0.12	7	45	s	Morecambe	4.6	0.15	8	46	b
Cardiff	4.8	-	10	50	b	Newcastle	-	0.03	9	48	sh
Clacton	4.9	-	12	54	s	Norwich	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Nottingham	X				
Colwyn Bay	X					Oxford	6.5	-	12	54	b
Cromer	3.6	0.06	10	50	s	Penzance	5.3	-	12	54	s
Doncaster	X					Plymouth	X				
Dunbar	X					Poole	2.9	-	12	54	s
Eastbourne	4.5	-	12	54	b	Prestatyn	X	0.01	9	48	b
Edinburgh	6.0	0.02	8	46	sh	Ross-o-wye	6.7	-	11	52	s
Eskdalemuir	3.1	0.16	7	45	sl	Sandown	5.3	-	11	52	b
Exmouth	3.5	-	13	55	b	Saunton Snd	4.8	-	11	52	s
Falmouth	3.5	-	12	54	s	Scarboro'	4.6	0.04	9	48	s
Fishguard	4.4	-	9	48	b	Shrewsbury	6.7	-	11	52	s
Folkestone	5.9	-	12	54	s	Skegness	4.0	0.04	11	52	s
Glasgow	3.1	0.22	8	46	sh	Southend	5.7	-	13	55	s
Guernsey	1.9	-	12	54	c	Southport	5.7	0.04	8	46	s
Hastings	4.3	-	13	55	s	Southsea	3.9	-	11	52	c
Hayling I	3.4	-	11	52	b	Stornoway	X				
Herne Bay	5.3	-	12	54	b	Swanage	3.5	-	12	54	s
Hove	3.5	-	12	54	s	Teignmouth	4.8	-	13	55	s
Hunstanton	3.2	0.02	8	46	s	Tenby	X				
Ilfracombe	X					Tiree	3.2	0.35	8	46	h
Isle of Man	X					Torquay	5.4	-	13	55	s
Jersey	1.4	-	11	52	c	Tynemouth	6.1	-	10	50	s
Kinloss	2.5	0.37	6	43	sh	Ventnor	6.3	-	12	54	s
Leeds	5.7	0.01	10	50	sh	Weymouth	2.6	-	11	52	b

ABROAD

Ajaccio	12	54	s	Corfu	15	59	f	Madrid	7	45	s	Rome	11	52	s
Akrotiri	17	63	s	C'phagn	3	37	r	Majorca	12	54	f	S Fr'sco	13	55	fg
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Dublin	9	48	c	Malaga	14	57	f	S Paulo	27	81	f
Algiers	11	52	f	Dubrovnik	10	50	c	Malta	15	59	f	Salzburg	0	32	c
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Faro	14	57	s	Melb'rne	21	70	s	Santiago	30	86	s
Athens	14	57	f	Florence	11	52	s	Mexico C	20	68	f	Seoul	3	37	s
B Aires	30	86	s	Frankfurt	1	34	r	Miami	26	79	f	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	20	68	s	Funchal	15	59	f	Milan	8	46	s	St'kholm	2	36	[illegible]
Bangkok	33	91	s	Geneva	3	37	s	Montreal	-10	14	X	Strasb'rg	1	34	r
Barbados	30	86	s	Gibraltar	13	55	c	Moscow	-10	14	c	Sydney	20	68	r
Barcelona	9	48	s	Helsinki	-2	28	c	Munich	1	34	sn	Tangier	13	55	c
Beirut	16	61	f	Hong K	18	64	c	N Delhi	22	72	s	Tel Aviv	17	63	f
Belgrade	0	32	s	Innsbrck	-1	30	f	N York	0	32	c	Tenerife	19	66	s
Berlin	4	39	d	Istanbul	5	41	f	Naples	12	54	f	Tokyo	2	36	sl
Bermuda	18	64	r	Jeddah	26	79	s	Nice	13	55	s	Toronto	-8	18	s
Biarritz	6	43	s	Jo'burg	14	57	r	Oslo	-4	25	sn	Tunis	10	50	c
Borde'x	6	43	c	Karachi	26	79	s	Paris	7	45	c	Valencia	12	54	s
Brussels	6	43	d	L Angels	16	61	f	Peking	-1	30	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	s
Budapest	-1	30	sn	L Palmas	19	66	c	Perth	38	100	s	Venice	6	43	s
Cairo	19	66	f	Le Touq't	8	46	f	Prague	1	34	c	Vienna	3	37	c
Cape Tn	29	84	s	Lisbon	11	52	s	Reykjavik	1	34	f	Warsaw	1	34	sn
Ch'church	16	61	c	Locarno	6	43	s	Rhodes	16	61	s	Wash'ton	4	39	c
Chicago	-1	30	s	Luxembg	0	32	d	Rio de J	30	86	s	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Cologne	3	37	r	Luxor	23	73	s	Riyadh	17	63	f	Zurich	0	32	c

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



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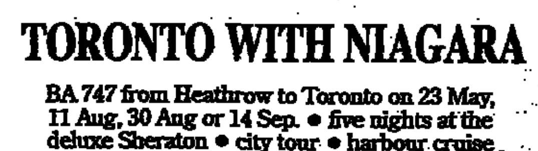

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Concorde supersonic to Brussels on 21 June ● two night QE2 cruise to Southampton via Le Havre (for Paris) ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

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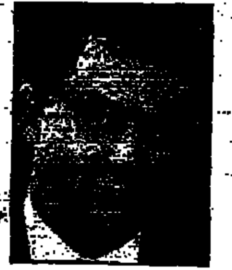

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 1996

Merger puts £425m dent in profits at Lloyds TSB

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

PROFITS of the newly merged Lloyds TSB were dented by an unexpected £425 million exceptional cost of combining the two banks over the next four years.

As a result, pre-tax profits for the combined banking group fell by 8 per cent last year to £1.65 billion. Excluding the one-off charge, which will be spent on closing premises, scrapping systems and shedding staff, profits would have been 16 per cent higher at £2.075 billion.

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive, said the bulk of the cost would go on "scrapping" computer systems and closing premises. Although he admitted that some of the cash would go towards early retirement and redundancy costs, Sir Brian hopes the bulk of any reductions will be achieved from ordinary staff turnover, which is 6,000 a year across the group. The bank employed 86,983 staff at the end of December.

The bank has refused to comment on how many jobs will go next year, when an Act of Parliament allows it to merge branches. Bifu, the banking union, estimates the figure to be 10,000.

Sir Robin Ibbs, chairman, said the bank had produced "strong results", which demonstrated that *Lloyds TSB* was a stronger force in its chosen market than the two banks on their own. He said that Lloyds TSB was among the first three in personal current accounts, residential mortgages, credit cards, life assurance, pensions and unit trusts.

Sir Robin refused to be drawn on how Lloyds TSB intends to deal with its 63 per cent stake in Lloyds Abbey Life. Analysts said that Lloyds Abbey Life is made up of two distinct businesses, Black Horse Financial Services, which sells to Lloyds customers, and Abbey Life, which has a direct sales force. John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Brothers, said some form of sale, flotation or merger of the Abbey Life business with another insurer seemed likely.

Lloyds TSB has employed the Boston Consulting Group to advise it on integrating the two banks. Peter Ellwood, TSB's former chief executive, is now deputy to Sir Brian and in charge of combining the retail operations.

Despite the acquisition of Cheltenham & Gloucester for £1.8 billion last August, and the £1 billion special dividend payment to TSB shareholders, the total capital ratio fell from 13 per cent to 9.6 per cent, and the tier one ratio fell from 9 per cent to 5.9 per cent, above analysts' estimates.

Profits from retail financial services, which Sir Robin described as "the heart of the new group", were 46 per cent higher at £1.38 billion. Profits from banking, including mortgages, were £823 million, with mortgages standing at £37.4 billion at the end of the year. The figures included a £49 million provision for compensation for pensions mis-selling to TSB customers, taking TSB's provision to £84 million and the group provision for pensions mis-selling to £165 million.

Profits from wholesale banking were £482 million, 13 per cent higher. International banking profit rose 30 per cent to £146 million. However, profits from private banking operations suffered, falling 15 per cent to £14 million, as customers remained wary of equity and bond markets.

The bad debt charge rose from £284 million to £583 million after an increased general provision to cover future bad debts and the release of problem country debt provisions of £28 million against £240 million in 1994.

The final dividend payment of 7.8p is due on May 1.

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ROBIN MAYES

Sir Brian Pitman, left, and Sir Robin Ibbs, who yesterday maintained that Lloyds TSB had produced "strong results"

City fears grow for borrowing target

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

THE Government repaid £3.7 billion in borrowing in January but corporation tax receipts still disappointed and the City predicted the Chancellor will again overshoot his public borrowing target.

The net repayment on the public sector borrowing requirement was lower than the £4.4 billion analysts had expected and many of them forecast that the PSBR for the full year will total between £32 billion and £33 billion, rather than the £29 billion projected in the Budget. This would make it more difficult to justify further tax cuts in November unless Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, can find yet more cuts in public spending, analysts argued.

As it is, the Government's forecasts for borrowing this year have been revised up repeatedly. In the November 1994 Budget, Mr Clarke predicted a PSBR for 1995-96 of £21.5 billion. In June 1995, that was revised up to £23.5 billion and revised again in November's Budget to £29 billion.

Both corporation tax and VAT receipts were disappointing in January and spending appears to be above target too. Corporation tax was up 18 per cent year-on-year in January but this was below the 27 per cent gain in the previous months of the tax year. VAT revenues plunged 17.7 per cent in January, an erratic move related to the build up of stock levels, but VAT has been running below target throughout the tax year because of weak domestic demand.

The last two months of the tax year are traditionally the heaviest months for government borrowing. In the previous tax year, there was £15 billion of borrowing in February and March. If this were added to cumulative borrowing in the first ten months of the current tax year, the full year PSBR would be £34.7 billion.

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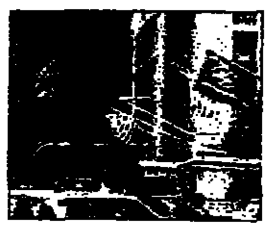

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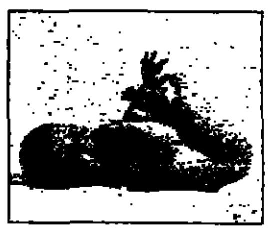


WEEKEND MONEY GUIDES

PART
④
Personal Pensions

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3770.9	(-8.9)
Yield	3.83%	
FT-SE A All share	1854.25	(-1.98)
Nikkei	20802.77	(-83.42)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5516.33	(-35.04)*
S&P Composite	649.23	(-2.09)*
Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	97⁷⁄₁₆*	(97²⁹⁄₃₂)
Yield	6.21%*	(6.17%)
3-mth Interbank	6⅛%	(6⁵⁄₃₂%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	108⅞	(108¹⁵⁄₁₆)
New York:		
$	1.5485*	(1.5375)
London:		
$	1.5493	(1.5379)
DM	2.2596	(2.2599)
FFr	7.7815	(7.7825)
SFr	1.8383	(1.8444)
Yen	162.91	(163.38)
£ Index	84.3	(84.2)
London:		
DM	1.4600*	(1.4685)
FFr	5.0260*	(5.0545)
SFr	1.1878*	(1.1975)
Yen	105.34*	(105.56)
$ Index	95.6	(96.0)
Tokyo close Yen 105.88		
Brent 15-day (May)	$16.65	($16.65)
London close	$404.55	($403.65)

* denotes midday trading price

Bid battle

The battle for control of Lloyds Chemists intensified after UniChem increased its offer to £634 million, while Gehe is expected to up its bid. The Lloyds board advised shareholders to take no action until Gehe clarified its intentions.

Report 28, Tempus 30

Mark One in hands of administrator

By Philip Pangalos

MARK ONE (Oxford One), which operates a chain of fashionwear retail outlets for women, has been put into administration.

The company, which was founded in 1976, operates a chain of 96 retail outlets throughout the country and has a workforce of more than 2,200. It continues to trade to facilitate the survival of the company as a going concern. The administrators are Neville Kahn of Coopers & Lybrand and Philip Monjack of Leonard Curtis & Co.

Mark One suffered losses of about £2 million in the year ending January 31, 1995, on turnover of about £80 million, and trading has deteriorated after a poor Christmas. Mark One has received a winding-up petition and unsecured creditors are owed an estimated £14 million.

Mr Kahn said that interest has already been shown by potential buyers.

Production halted at CI pits and 260 are laid off

By Christine Buckley

NEARLY 300 miners were yesterday laid off work as administrators of Coal Investments, the heavily indebted company founded by Malcolm Edwards, halted production at two collieries and closed the company headquarters.

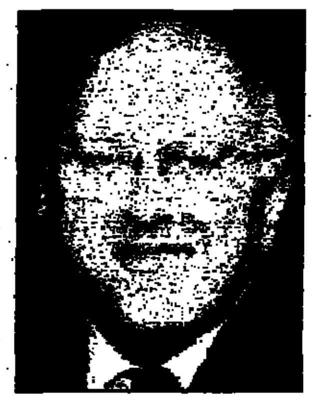
Doubts hang over the future of remaining pits belonging to Coal Investments after 197 miners were sent home from Markham Main, Doncaster, and 70 were laid off at Cwmgwili, near Swansea. The Doncaster pit was put into care and maintenance after coal ran out in a seam and Arthur Andersen, the administrators who were called into the company 11 days ago, said that further development work could not take place.

Time may also be short for a third colliery of the six owned by Coal Investments. Its Coventry colliery is thought to have only about six weeks of current coal supplies. A spokesman for the administrators said that money could not be pumped into development work to open new seams until the pits had been established as viable.

Industry insiders doubt whether Markham Main and Coventry have short-term futures. Both pits have long-term reserves, but the coal is inaccessible and could take at least 18 months to come into production. It is thought that £20 million would be needed to open up Conventry's long-term reserves, and Markham's safe expansion could cost £10 million.

It is not widely expected that Coal Investments, as such, will survive, but separate financing or purchases may be secured for some of its sites. Cwmgwili, a small drift mine, is not thought to have a future beyond a locally run operation.

About £120 million has been put into the six Coal Investments collieries, but the company plunged into cash flow difficulties after experiencing technological problems and failing to meet production forecasts. In December, the shares were suspended after the company failed to produce financial figures. It put much of the blame on the refusal of planning consent to develop a seam at Hem Heath colliery in Staffordshire.



Edwards: founder

BET braced for Rentokil assault

By Alasdair Murray

BET executives yesterday cut short a trip to America to attend an emergency board meeting to plot their campaign against a hostile £1.8 billion takeover by Rentokil.

Rentokil's offer values shares in BET, a rival business services group, at 190.1p each, a premium of 37 per cent over the closing price of February 14, the day before speculation on a possible bid caused a sharp rise in the shares.

BET rejected the offer, saying it failed to recognise the group's value. John Clark, chief executive, said: "This is a totally inadequate offer. There is very little overlap between the two companies and Rentokil will effectively be creating a conglomerate."

Rentokil is offering £8 in cash and nine new shares for every 20 BET shares. There is also a cash alternative of 179.5p. BET shares closed up 11p at 195.5p as the City gambled on the offer being merely the opening shot in the bid battle. Analysts anticipate that Rentokil will need to take the offer above 210p a share to be assured of victory. Rentokil's share price closed down 3.5p at 333p.

Rentokil criticised BET's financial performance, but said it saw synergy between the two businesses. At least 80 per cent of BET would be retained, it added.

Rentokil has won the backing of its majority shareholder, Sophus Berendsen, a Danish company whose 52 per cent holding would fall to 35 per cent if the bid were successful.

Mr Clark stands to receive a payoff of about £2.6 million if the bid succeeds. Mr Clark, who was paid £1.1 million last year, receives a base salary of £580,000, including pension contributions, and has a three-year service contract. He also holds options worth £864,000 at the bid price.

Rentokil was forced to launch a full bid slightly ahead of its intended schedule after speculation sent BET sharply higher on Wednesday and Thursday. The Stock Exchange is believed to be investigating share dealings ahead of the bid.

Rentokil unveiled its full-year results yesterday, with profits meeting the self-imposed 20 per cent target up 21 per cent to £214.5 million on a turnover of £860 million, up 17.1 per cent. The dividend was raised 21 per cent to 4.2p.

Tempus, page 30

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TI 17.02.96

هكذا من الاصل

A sprinkling of pixel dust

MARTIN WALLER

A particularly hilarious television discussion from the 1950s, which I reproduce from memory alone alas, has a panel of aged worthies discussing the arrival of rock and roll.

All agree that the music is unpleasant and pointless. One, a bishop as I remember, draws his clerical vestments tightly around him and opines, baffled: "I have never rock-and-rolled; indeed, I have never felt the need to rock-and-roll."

I have always felt rather the same about the Internet. I know this puts me on the same side of the generational divide as that bishop. For brothel-creepered teddy boys then tearing up cinema seats across the land, read cyberpunks today. I have never surfed the Internet; indeed, I have never felt the need to surf the Internet.

But I am interested in those computer stocks that burst forth like novas once in a while, showering windfalls on investors. You know the sort of thing, even if you, like I, can never quite visualise what it is that these wondrous devices actually do:

"InterFace Technologies of Luton has signed a development deal with MegaCyberCorp to allow its ProtoX image-slicers to be used on service stations on the InterWeb. The image-slicers will allow the user to access interstitial nodes . . ."

By the time you have read thus far into the announcement, the share price is well into the troposphere. It is too late; the smart money is on board, the bell has rung, the bus is away from the kerb. You are left with a vague feeling that if you had just understood it all quickly enough, you might be on the top deck too.

There are three things you should know. The smart money, too, cannot tell an image-slicer from a bacon-slicer. The smart money saw the deal, or one like it, coming months ago and bought in not for the image-slicers but because the stock is blessed with that lucky sprinkling of pixel dust. Today's scramble for shares is just the pay-off.

We had another of these novas this week. Something called Superscape, maker of virtual reality machines whose profits, so far, have also been limited to virtual reality, linked with IBM.

The second point is that there are an awful lot of flakes, and downright frauds, out there. Sexy sectors like computers or biotech draw any number of duds into their slipstream. It is not so many years since a small chemicals company, sensing an advantage to be gained from the Aids scare, announced a new product that killed the HIV virus on any surface on contact. It was selling disinfectant.

The third is that we plucky Brits are not going to do it alone. Superscape follows a familiar road. Last year's big success stories in high-tech stocks, like Unipalm, Azlan and MAID, came after deals struck across the Atlantic.

These are one-offs. If the investor is clever enough to spot them, well done. There will be plenty more built out of unpromising materials, like the US software business now touting for cash that has yet to book a dollar of revenue, let alone profit. Some will flare into novas, some implode into black dwarfs.

But the actual money to be made on the Net over the next few years will be rather less dramatic, and found around the margins. The challenge is to spot those businesses that will find ways of doing so.

The two difficulties with the InterNet are extracting revenues from those cruising in cyberspace and persuading them to stay still long enough to look at advertising. It is tempting to see the net as analogous to a cable TV network. Those small numbers currently on line are technofreaks, there because they want to be. The services out there, I suggest, are not yet the most important thing.

So the trick would appear to be to hook in non-users like me and, perhaps, you by boosting the services available, in the same way that a cable company bolts together a package of TV channels until this is tempting enough to persuade the potential viewer to open the front door.

But the experts, perhaps keen to retain the mystique, say that the Net will never be a mass-market phenomenon. It is not a question of shoving product down the consumer's throat. Instead, the "viewer" chooses to come to you because he or she is aware of, and wants, your service. There are currently five million "host sites" on the Net, places in cyberspace where you can go to get something, anything. Consider the problems of a TV station competing with 4,999,999 other channels.

Instead, the experts are excited by so-called hybrid media opportunities. A recent study from Andrea Kirkby at Daiwa talks of "a symbiotic relationship between the World-wide Web and existing advertising media". There are specialist magazines that cross over onto the Net, allowing readers to discuss their little fixations there — EMAP is well advanced in this area.

Several bookstores have tested a system of ordering text down the line and printing in the store, so avoiding the need to tie up shelf space with actual books. So much for the armies of Babbage and Turing triumphing over those of Gutenberg and Caxton.

One of the most interesting of the hybrid media is being developed by Dorling Kindersley. Producer of some of the best encyclopaedias now in bookstores, the publisher also sells these in CD-Rom form. CD-Roms are set to become the worldwide staple for information storage in virtually every medium except the printed word. The encyclopaedias are wonderful, and particularly suited to young and inquiring minds.

But Dorling Kindersley also has plans to use its CD-Rom products to pull those minds onto the InterNet. Not only can the encyclopaedia be regularly updated — consider the changes to the entry on Yugoslavia over the past five years — but the CD-Rom will also give access to the Net, and to other online "clubs" of fellow young enthusiasts.

The bishop and I might recoil, appalled. But I think the Jesuits, at least, would have approved.

EFM calls for cash to acquire Dunedin

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

EDINBURGH Fund Managers has confirmed its plans to buy Dunedin, the investment manager, from Bank of Scotland and other shareholders in a deal worth £83.25 million. The acquisition will double the size of EFM's funds under management to £8.2 billion.

The deal will be part-funded by the proceeds of a placing and open offer to raise £75 million after expenses. Bank of Scotland, which holds 50.5 per cent of the shares, will net a capital gain of £34 million.

Shareholders, including the Edinburgh Investment Trust, with 28.9 per cent, and three Dunedin trusts, will also benefit from a pre-completion dividend of £8 million.

The enlarged EFM will have 8 per cent of the UK investment trust market. Significant cost savings should be derived from the amalgamation of the two groups.

EFM also published its results for the year to January 31 yesterday, showing pre-tax profits reduced to £12.8 million from £13.7 million after the sale of its private client fund management business. The dividend is 1p higher at 24p, with a final 17p due May 20.

Lloyds fight intensifies as UniChem raises bid

By Sarah Cunningham

THE BATTLE for Lloyds Chemists intensified yesterday with UniChem increasing its offer to £634 million and Gehe, the German company, widely expected to up its rival bid. The Lloyds board was holding a meeting last night and considering its response to the UniChem move.

Lloyds Chemists has 900 retail outlets around the country. UniChem and Gehe each control about a third of the drugs wholesale market. Whichever company wins the bid battle will become Britain's second largest chemist chain behind Boots.

UniChem said yesterday's offer was final and Jeffery Harris, the chairman, denied suggestions from the Gehe camp that its cash and share offer would leave it financially stretched. "I resent that," Mr Harris said. "We don't feel at all stretched, we have slightly upped the cash element and at very good interest rates." He said his company had found "substantial support from Lloyds's shareholders."

Gehe's £584 million offer, made last week and recommended by the Lloyds board, was all in cash and the company's advisers yesterday said they thought this still gave Gehe "a considerable advantage of a much lower cost of capital". They said they were "pursuing this [bid] with determination".

Allen Lloyd, chairman and founder of Lloyds Chemists, stands to be happy whoever wins. He has watched his 7.5 per cent shareholding rise in value to £47.5 million.

UniChem's bid comprises 926p in cash and 16 new UniChem shares for every ten Lloyds shares, valuing Lloyds at 488.5p a share. Its shares surged yesterday by 23p to 493p, while Unichem's rose 8.5p to 247.5p. Repayment of a tax credit for a special dividend of 40p takes the implied gross value of the revised offer to £646 million. UniChem's initial agreed offer for Lloyds valued it at £528 million.

In a separate development yesterday, the European Commission said it was starting a preliminary inquiry into Gehe's plans to take over Lloyds Chemists.

Analysts said that both companies were in some danger of overreaching themselves in their bids for Lloyds, but said that they were clearly worried about being left in a poor third in the chemist market if they lost. Mr Harris said that if UniChem were to lose, the company would continue to grow by acquiring some of the 10,000 remaining independent chemists shops.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

❛Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, has had plenty of experience in pest control. So when he decided to launch a £1.8bn bid for rival business services group BET, it was no surprise that he moved in like a trained exterminator . . .❜

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.13	1.97
Austria Sch	16.91	15.41
Belgium Fr	49.48	45.18
Canada $	2.231	2.071
Cyprus Cyp£	0.759	0.704
Denmark Kr	9.36	8.56
Finland Mkk	7.63	6.98
France Fr	8.20	7.55
Germany Dm	2.42	2.20
Greece Dr	394.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.54	11.54
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1700	4.5200
Italy Lira	2548.00	2393.00
Japan Yen	177.10	161.10
Malta	0.594	0.539
Netherlds Gld	2.684	2.454
New Zealand $	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	10.47	9.67
Portugal Esc	246.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	6.25	5.45
Spain Pta	197.50	184.50
Sweden Kr	11.28	10.48
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	99818.0	94318.0
USA $	1.635	1.505

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Peter Birse, right, and Martin Buddon, finance director

Birse in profit

By Martin Barrow

BIRSE GROUP, the construction company, has returned to profit after four years of losses. In the six months to October 31, it earned £340,000 before tax, up from a £680,000 loss in the first half of the previous year.

Peter Birse, the chairman, said: "It is very encouraging to see our principal business in construction making such satisfactory progress in these difficult times as it is the success of that business which will underwrite the future prosperity of the group."

Birse left private housebuilding in 1995. Mr Birse said: "I look to the future with more optimism than I have been able to do for some time."

Turnover rose by 31 per cent, to £202 million, from £154 million, yielding operating profit of £1.33 million, against just £270,000 previously.

Birse wants to cancel the share premium account to permit resumption of dividends.

The shares rose 5p, to 17½p.

Accountant 'demanded meeting with Nadir'

By Jon Ashworth

A SENIOR accountant made a frantic dash across London to demand a meeting with Asil Nadir on suspicions that he had been supplied with incorrect financial information, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Philip Prettejohn, a partner in Rawlinson and Hunter, wanted him to explain an apparent link between two offshore companies and Nadir family interests — an anomaly that gave rise to "considerable concern". Mr Nadir was unavailable, and the meeting did not take place until some days later.

Mr Prettejohn had initially demanded an answer from Elizabeth Forsyth, who had been recruited from Citibank as Mr Nadir's "right-hand woman" on private family matters. Her response was one of "considerable surprise", and she insisted it "must be a mistake" to talk of a link with the companies, Gateway Investments and Riverbridge Investments. She continued to express her surprise on the journey to Polly Peck International's head office in Berkeley Square, London.

Mrs Forsyth, 59, former chairman of South Audley Management, denies two counts of handling £400,000 in allegedly stolen funds during a week in October 1989.

Mr Prettejohn, giving evidence on the fourth day of the trial, outlined a tax structure known as the South Audley Settlement that was created to limit Mr Nadir's liability for capital gains tax. Mrs Forsyth had approached his firm in June 1987 seeking help in setting up a suitable scheme.

Mr Prettejohn told of his need to frequently remind Mrs Forsyth not to interfere with the running of various offshore trusts and companies.

The court heard of conversations with Jason Davies, a stockbroking friend of Mr Nadir's son, who had run up personal debts of up to £350,000 in the 1987 stock market crash. Mr Nadir had given him a job at South Audley Management.

The trial continues on Monday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Judge is named for Kevin Maxwell trial

THE judge at the next trial of Kevin Maxwell — due to start at the end of the year — is to be Mr Justice Buckley. He is expected to spend the next few months reading the intricacies of allegations arising from the collapse of the Maxwell empire, which have occupied lawyers for more than four years.

An experienced High Court judge, Mr Justice Buckley, 56, is no stranger to complex cases involving allegations of corporate crime. He presided in the 1992 trial of executives accused of corruption in relation to British Rail engineering contracts. At the end of the prosecution case, he directed the jury to return not guilty verdicts. Mr Justice Buckley takes over the Maxwell case from Lord Justice Phillips, now a Court of Appeal judge, who has been involved with it since 1993 and has impressed both prosecution and defence lawyers with his mastery of the issues. He introduced state of the art computer aids into the first trial — which ended in Kevin and Ian Maxwell's acquittal.

Trade Indemnity rises

TRADE INDEMNITY GROUP, the credit insurer being acquired by Compagnie Financière SFAC, of France, for £177.3 million, has reported a sharp recovery in pre-tax profits to £22.5 million in 1995, from £5 million the previous year. The company said that although the 1989 to 1991 underwriting accounts led to underwriting losses, 1992 showed a return to profit for continuing operations and the closed 1993 account has continued the recovery. Earnings per share rose to 9.6p, from 2.2p. A previously declared second interim dividend of 1.4p is payable when the SFAC offer becomes unconditional.

Bank buys housebuilder

ROYAL Bank of Scotland is buying Charles Church, the heavily indebted Surrey housebuilder, for a nominal sum. Church owes banks a total of £40.5 million, including £14.5 million to Royal Bank. The ordinary share capital is being acquired for £130,000. The bank is paying an additional £700,000 for the preference shares and has agreed to take over the outstanding debts of the other banks for £12.8 million. In the year to August 31, 1995, Church made an operating profit of £4.1 million on turnover of £34.7 million.

Burmah sells retailers

BURMAH CASTROL is selling its Turkish and Chilean fuel retailing businesses for £64 million. The owner of the Castrol GTX motor oil brand shed its UK petrol stations in July, and is also in talks to sell its Swedish fuels business. Completion of these deals, including the UK petrol stations, will have generated £150 million for Burmah, which will be left with fuels businesses in Australia, Belgium and Ireland. The company intends to expand in the Turkish market through other distribution channels.

Tempus, page 30

Southern Water deal

SOUTHERN WATER, the privatised utility, is acquiring VCHL, a vehicle contract hire and leasing company with operations in Surrey and Kent, for a maximum £13 million in cash and shares. VCHL, which had turnover of £8.7 million in the year to August 31, will be integrated with Topmark Vehicle Contracts, Southern Water's existing vehicle leasing company. The two founding directors of VCHL will continue to be involved with the business.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

A WORKING WEEK FOR: CHRIS FARROW

Eastender inspired by spirit of Liverpool

Christine Buckley meets the Londoner ready to walk through a storm for the North's successful docklands reclamation project

HOWARD BARLOW

Chris Farrow, who admits he had "never really been north of Watford" until this job, has nearly finished overseeing the rejuvenation of Liverpool's waterfront

THE weather in Chris Farrow's office whistles through slight gaps in a window. From this and its neighbouring windows on the fourth floor of Liverpool's famous Royal Liver Building, he — and the two Liver birds that stand on top of the landmark — can look down on his workplace. For the chief executive of the Merseyside Development Corporation, his office view makes him master of most of what he surveys.

In more clement conditions it is a pleasant vista. But this day it is grim. Rain whips across the grey Irish Sea and the blustery wind brings an oil-rig service vessel into Liverpool Bay seeking shelter. It is returning from the first field off the west coast of England to produce oil. Hamilton Oil started to ship in the fuel late last year from the field, which lies just a little way out from the city.

The service vessel chugs slowly up the Mersey drawing level with the former shipbuilding yard that now bears the repainted name of Cammell Laird. Shipbuilding and one of Merseyside's former major employers has gone, but repair work is keeping some of the yard busy and now that the owner — Coastline Industries — has bought the famous name, the memory of a more prosperous past is kept alive.

> There is a great desire to get things done. The spirit . . . is very strong

To port, the boat passes Brunswick business park, a collection of small manufacturers operating from the reclaimed site of an old quay of the same name. Ahead of it lies a leisure park and housing on land reclaimed from dereliction to stage the city's massive garden festival in 1984.

Immediately ahead of the vessel is the Albert Docks, the luxury shopping and housing development where the vast car parks are sometimes forced to close because they are full. The complex is often held up as the epitome of dock development. It thrives while Tobacco Dock in east London lies forlorn and largely unoccupied.

The Albert Docks are where the Tate Gallery sited its home in the North, which now attracts 800,000 visitors a year and has banished the scepticism that surrounded its opening. Rightly so, believes Farrow, given the appropriate links that Liverpool offers. "Tate was from Liverpool and it was in London Docklands that he and Lyle first came together."

The London Docklands connection is something Farrow shares. He is wearing a London Docklands tie to demonstrate his sympathy and solidarity with the bombed area that he helped to develop as operations director before moving to Liverpool four years ago.

Farrow, an Eastender, enthuses about the quality of life on Merseyside. He came North West at the behest of Sir Desmond Pitcher, the forthright and expansive chairman of United Utilities, who also heads the Merseyside Development Corporation, which sprang into being in 1981 as part of the Government's urban regeneration drive. For the amiable and energetic Farrow, it was a journey into the unknown. "I'd never really been north of Watford before, in all seriousness, so I didn't know what to expect, but we're very settled here." His three children have started to develop slight Scouse lilts, he says, and he and his wife, who works for Liverpool Housing Action, have developed a different social circle.

"In London, the friends we had were in very similar positions to us, there wasn't a large amount of variety in the social circle. But here we have a far more varied social life and mix with a lot more people in industry. People aren't as pigeonholed," he says. Family life, as well as a jump in professional status, have been the benefits of a move North. "The schools are better and all in all you can afford a much better quality of life."

But they were unknown quantities when Farrow made the decision to uproot. Initially, he was attracted not only by the chance to run the show in Liverpool but also by Sir Desmond's passion for his locale. "He puts a lot of effort into the area. He was born in a council flat here and has never forgotten that. That sort of attitude is typical of many in Liverpool; there is a great desire to get things done. The spirit of the place is very strong."

Spirit is particularly evident in the port heartland of Merseyside. At the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, which runs the commercial port, a bitter dispute shows no signs of ending. Workers from the port, which has had its workforce shrunk from 4,000 to 400, have spent the past four months locked in unofficial dispute with the company over its sacking of 329 men who refused to cross a picket line. Last week, the men rejected an offer of about £25,000 per worker to settle the dispute and demanded their jobs back. Union officials are trying to whip up international support for a blockade of the port.

This week, the company revealed that it had lost £4 million up to the end of last year as a result of the dispute, when it turned in pre-tax profits of £31.7 million, down from the previous year's £33.6 million. Gordon Waddell, the chairman, sounded a note of gloom when he commented: "Further intransigence and action on their [the strikers] part will only affect the reputation of the port of Liverpool, and be to the detriment of Merseyside as a whole."

Indeed, the strike is bad news, not only for the men who complain that the speed with which their jobs were readvertised and filled proved that the sackings were a ploy to deunionise the port, but also for the perception of Liverpool, which had largely consigned its industrial relations difficulties to the past.

Farrow is pessimistic about the dispute. "It could go on for ever. This strike is unusual for Liverpool, it isn't about money or conditions. They just want their jobs back." The old image of strikers at Liverpool crystallises the contrast between the newer industries, which are clustering around the old docks, and the city's heritage. Mail-order companies linked to international shopping channels, with staff that speak several languages and an operation that manages to transfer low-cost items from Hong Kong to Norway at a profit, are the newer face of global trade at the port.

Electronic international channels are also bringing in call centres for banks and building societies, with the modest rental and office costs luring many to locate in the North West. The Halifax Building Society opened a call centre recently, while two more financial groups are moving their operations to Liverpool.

This week, Farrow has had talks with companies pitching for the Kings Dock, the latest patch of reclaimed land earmarked for commercial life. It is planned to make Kings a high-tech attraction, with virtual reality expected to play a large part in shaping the development.

The pace at which the spare parts of Liverpool's docklands are being utilised is quickening. In two years, the Merseyside Development Corporation will come to an end and private enterprise will be left largely to its own devices, without the aid of government resources. A year later, and an end will also come to the £1.6 billion available to the region from Europe's Objective 1 programme, which rebuilds areas of particular need. Between then and now, inward investment is high on Farrow's agenda. Work began last week on Twelve Quays, an international technology campus that is intended to attract overseas pharmaceuticals companies, aided by Liverpool's strong academic record in the discipline.

And as the dull February weather casts a pale light over Farrow's dockside achievements, some of his thoughts are on South Carolina. He is planning a trip there and to New York to follow business leads. He is hopeful of exploiting potential in the US to whom it is easier to market the traditionally troublesome image of Liverpool than to many countries because of the historical and geographical links.

"This role is far more worldwide than that in London. I've travelled much more to market Liverpool, and it is encouraging that the response is increasing. Companies want to come here," he says. Inward investment is not, however, a fast-moving area. Farrow explains that what started as a lunch in San Francisco in February 1992 only recently became a reality when CostCo, the discount shopping club, opened operations.

A similar geographical tie that has produced a stream of business in recent times is Ireland. But Farrow is fearful that the bomb that scarred London's Docklands and threatened the future of the Anglo-Irish peace process will affect this connection in the long-term.

Liverpool has opened several food-processing operations using produce generated in the Irish Republic, the economy of which has improved in tandem with the peace in Northern Ireland. "Undoubtedly it has benefited from a knock-on effect of Northern Ireland's economic jump, but there is a cloud hanging over that now."

Liverpool's dock regeneration has created more than 14,000 new jobs and has reclaimed 342 hectares of land and its goal for the end of the development corporation's lifetime is to create the potential for 25,000 jobs. But with that potential clouded by Irish-related events and the threat of a blockade by dock workers at other ports, Farrow must be hoping that the storm passes quickly.

High points of viewing a London house of treasures

Joanna Pitman goes behind the doors of Clerical Medical's main office

Having the good fortune to own as a principal office a 1760s building designed by James "Athenian" Stuart, the contemporary authority on classical Greek architecture, in one of the oldest squares in London, St James's, is one thing. To find that it is filled with fine vaulted and domed interiors decorated in a rich classical style, including a boardroom said to be the finest drawing room in the square, must surely be something more than mere good fortune.

Lichfield House, 15 St James's Square, next door to the London Library, was bought for £12,750 in 1856 by the Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society. Founded in 1824 to provide financial services for the clergy and the medical profession, it has since expanded into an international investment and insurance group with £13 billion in funds under management at the end of 1995. But today's clients no doubt hope that its fund managers are as shrewd as their forebears. For Lichfield House today, since extensive renovation in the early 1980s, stands out as one of the finest and earliest British examples of the Greek Revival period in architecture.

The first house on the site was built in 1673 and occupied by Frances, Duchess of Richmond, a beauty of her day known as "La Belle Stewart" for her poise as the model for Britannia on the old penny. In the mid-18th century, Thomas Anson, MP for Lichfield, acquired the original building and, giving new breadth to his interest in Greek and Roman antiquities, commissioned "Athenian" Stuart, a fellow member of the Society of Dilettante, to build a new house. Stuart had studied in Rome and had made a series of records of Greek architecture. But the basis of his fame as a classical authority rested largely on his book, *The Antiquities of Athens*, published in 1762.

The house he built reflects his classical taste, incorporating the first example of his use of a Greek temple form for an urban terraced house. Indeed, Lichfield House is the only surviving example of a domestic facade by Stuart. In the early 19th century, at the behest of Anson's son, the house was enlarged and embellished by Samuel Wyatt and his Staffordshire family of architects and builders. Wyatt devised a series of intercommunicating rooms that stretched through to a stable block in Duke Street. Along with the original kitchen, these backrooms have been replaced by modern interiors fronting on Duke Street for day-to-day office use by Clerical Medical staff.

But it is principally the ceilings to which we must lift our gaze. The boardroom, the former drawing room, occupies the entire three-window frontage. On entering, the eyes are drawn towards the heavily ornamental ceiling, a richly gilded and intricately carved display of classical panache. Rosettes, arabesques and palm leaf designs radiate from the centre. Around them, in an octagonal form, are eight painted panels, each portraying subjects from Greek mythology. These were painted in 1794 by Biagio Rebecca, an Italian who had made a name for himself with work on the interiors of the State Apartments at Windsor Castle.

The former music room, now the committee room, also has a richly decorated ceiling, set off by pale blue and pink that give it a lightness of touch. Around the central chandelier, eight panels frame paintings of dancing and musical figures, believed to be the work of Angelica Kauffmann, who worked with Robert Adam.

There remains an impressive collection of original decorative pieces, fluted pilasters, friezes, mirror frames and other ornaments designed by Stuart. A number of these reflect styles used in his work at Spencer House and St James's Palace. But above all, it is the ceilings that capture the attention, being compelling enough to cause dire distraction in Clerical Medical's committee and board meetings if their members are classically inclined.

The boardroom ceiling, a rich display of classical panache

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Hangover feeling as equities fail to shine

THE equity market had that morning-after-the-night-before feel about it as brokers struggled into work after Thursday night's annual Society of Investment Analysts Dinner at the Grosvenor.

Not only did traders lack their normal sparkle, but both share prices and gilts looked a little under the weather. The overnight fall on Wall Street and another early setback for the Dow Jones industrial average in early trading last night put a dampener on events. Traders also had to contend with a worse than expected public sector borrowing requirement and the expiry of the February index options.

The FT-SE 100 index touched an all-time high of *3,791.6 in* early trading, but was unable to hold its position. It eventually closed 8.9 points down at 3,770.9 — a rise on the week of 54.6.

BET was an early feature, rising 11p to 195½p after Rentokil decided to strike while the iron was hot. It has launched an aggressive £1.8 billion assault offering a mixture of cash and shares. The terms are nine new shares and £8 cash for every 20 BET shares. There is also a cash alternative of 179.5p.

BET quickly rejected the bid, describing it as "unsolicited and unwelcome and wholly inadequate". Clive Thompson, the Rentokil chief executive, countered by describing BET's track record as unimpressive, with profits falling under the leadership of John Clark, chief executive. Rentokil lost a further 2½p to 333p.

UniChem's higher offer for **Lloyds Chemist** lifted the latter 23p to 493p. The new terms are 526p in cash, 16 UniChem shares and an extra 400p cash for every ten Lloyds shares. They value Lloyds at about £617 million, or 475p a share and tops the counterbid from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical distributor, by 25p a share.

The speculators are now waiting to see if the German company will bounce back with a higher offer. **UniChem** finished 8½p higher at 247½p.

Bid speculation continued to drive **Yorkshire-Tyne Tees** a further 11p higher at £10.28 in the wake of Thursday's dawn raid on the shares by free-spending Granada which can now call upon 24.5 per cent of the equity. City speculators see the raid as the first step towards a full bid. It will also deter anyone else from launching a bid, giving Granada beathing space to sell the luxury hotels it acquired when it paid £3.9 billion for Forte recently. **Yorkshire TV Warrants** also rose 13p to 838p, with **Granada** 3½p firmer at 738p.

Still in the same county, speculative buying was evident, again pushing **Yorkshire Electricity** higher, with a rise of 8p to 741p. In thin trading, a total of 628,960 shares changed hands in spite of recent denials from the company that it had received any bid approaches. Yorkshire is one of the three remaining electricity distributors not to have received a bid.

Farnell Electronics bounced back with a rise of 14p to 621p after going ex its 9-for-19 rights issue at 540p. On Thursday, shareholders approved the group's proposed £1.8 billion acquisition of Premier, the US electronics distributor. There had been some objections to the acquisition of Premier, which is three times the size of Farnell, from institutions who accused the company of being too generous with the terms.

The first set of figures from the newly merged **Lloyds TSB** were warmly received by the City. They kicked off the banks' reporting season, revealing a rise in pre-tax profits last year from £1.79 billion to £2.07 billion, which included a five-month contribution from Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.

The figure was, however, struck before charges totalling £425 million for restructuring the business and was achieved in spite of increased provisions for bad and doubtful debts.

Brokers appeared to be impressed with the group's underlying trading performance, but the shares ended 6p down at 341½p.

News of the bid from Redland lifted **Ennemix** 1p to 35p. Redland, which is selling its brickmaking operation, is bidding 32p a share valuing the entire company at £5.8 million. This is the same price that Redland paid Nash Sells for a 33.1 per cent stake in Ennemix in December.

Ennemix last night rejected the terms. It has been hit hard by the depressed building industry, and in the first six months of 1995 incurred a pretax loss of £223,000 and passed the dividend. **Redland** *hardened 1p to 418p.*

A profits warning left **Adwest**, the vehicle components group, nursing a fall of 5p at 113p. The group expects to incur operating losses of £1.1 million in the first six months after the disposal of Air-Log and IHW, both loss-making businesses. This, combined with higher interest charges, is expected to result in a drop in pre-tax profits from £6.2 million to £4.6 million.

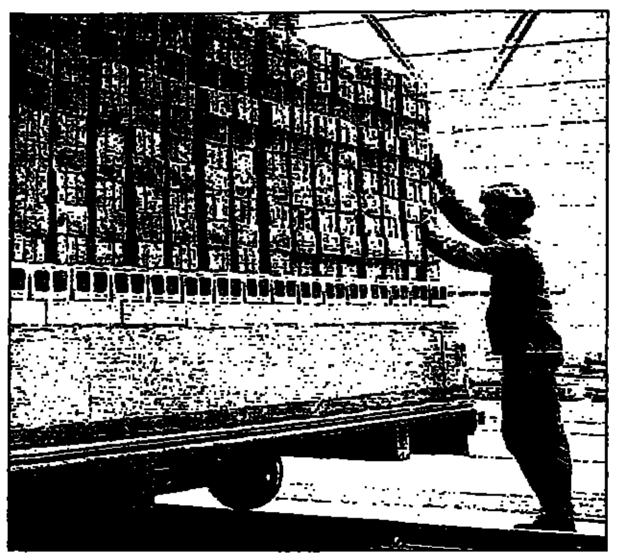
Birse, the construction group, celebrated its return to the black with a rise of 5p to 17½p after weighing in with pre-tax profits of £335,000, against a deficit last time of £678,000. In spite of the continued lack of dividend, the group is more optimistic than it has been for some time about prospects.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The worse than expected PSBR depressed sentiment and deterred investors from opening fresh positions. The worst of the falls was seen at the ultra long end of the market with traders facing up to next week's auction.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished a couple of ticks lower at £108⅞ as a total of 52,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 shed £⅛ at £99⅞, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £¹⁄₁₆ better at £104¹³⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street pulled away from the worst levels in bonds in the late morning, but shares remained sharply lower. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 35.04 points down at 5,516.33.



Redland is selling its brickmaking arm but also making a bid

Vendome, the luxury goods group, fell 38p to 545p after several profit downgradings. ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Henderson Crosthwaite have cut forecasts, worried by difficult conditions in Europe. Over the past three weeks, Henderson has reduced its forecast by £20 million to £250 million.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
BET	195½p	+58½p	Rentokil bids £1.8 billion
Y'shire-Tyne Tees TV	£10.28	+128p	Dawn raid by Granada
Scottish Television	715p	+102p	Speculative buying
Yorkshire Electricity	741p	+23p	Bid hopes revived
Lloyds Chemists	493p	+19p	UniChem raises offer
E'pean Motor Holdings	84p	-18p	Profits warning
Fenchurch Insurance	126p	-17p	Profits warning
Oriel	187p	+39p	Bid approach
William Jacks	43p	-15p	Profits warning

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5516.33 (-35.04)
S&P Composite	649.23 (-2.09)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20802.77 (-83.42)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	11594.99 (+123.18)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	508.56 (-2.60)

Sydney:

AO	2297.3 (-1.2)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2429.02 (+6.01)

Singapore:

Straits	2453.88 (+14.67)

Brussels:

General	8727.52 (-6.77)

Paris:

CAC-40	1952.50 (-11.17)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	730.70 (+0.30)

London:

FT 30	2748.9 (-14.9)
FT 100	3770.9 (-8.9)
FT-SE Mid 250	4199.9 (+10.8)
FT-SE-A 350	1879.7 (-2.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1538.16 (+0.54)
FT A All-Share	1854.25 (-1.98)
FT Non Financials	1954.94 (-2.17)
FT Fixed Interest	112.73 (+0.01)
FT Govt Secs	94.31 (-0.01)
Bargains	36171
SEAQ Volume	820.3m
USM (Datastrm)	204.28 (+1.59)
US$	1.5481 (+0.0106)
German Mark	2.2622 (+0.0005)
Exchange Index	84.3 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1969
£:SDR	1.0500
RPI	150.2 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.3 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ballynatray Hldgs	5½	-	½
Clubhaus (7½)	7½	-	½
Clubhaus Wts	3½	-	¼
Dmatek	70		...
Ex-Lands Prop	14		...
Ex-Lands Prop Wts	9		...
MediaKey (60)	64		...
Nthn Petlm Wts	8		...
Optical Care	70	-	1
Revelation Plcc	105		...
Self Sealing Sys (54)	51	-	2
Shire Pharms (175)	222	+	4
SkyePharma B Wts	8¼	-	¼

RIGHTS ISSUES

Farnll Fn Cv n/p (540)	73½		...
Innovative T n/p (70)	26	-	4
Oxford MI n/p (235)	96		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Avon Rubber	581p (+49p)
Vickers	293p (+23p)
HTV Group	396p (+26p)
Grampian	266p (+14p)
Ladbroke	191p (+10p)
Psion	900p (+42p)
Lloyds Chem	493p (+23p)
Mersey Docks	431p (+20p)
Scot TV	715p (+30p)
EMAP	591p (+20p)
Securicor 'A'	943p (+25p)
Regent Inns	799p (+13p)
TDG	218p (+7p)
Scott Radio	334p (+9p)
D Smith	313p (+8p)
Amersham	887p (+14p)
Security Serv	940p (+22p)
Ryl Bk Scot	579p (+12p)

FALLS:

Vendome	545p (-38p)
Electrocompnts	350p (-11p)
Courtaulds	404p (-10p)
Telemetrix	115p (-8p)
Tomkins	269p (-7p)
Racal Elect	294p (-6p)
Filtronic Com	420p (-8p)
First Tech	445p (-8p)
Lloyds TSB	341½p (-6p)

Closing Prices Page 45

TEMPUS

BET's question of price

THE mud is already flying between Rentokil and BET, promising a dirty and confusing bid battle. Rentokil yesterday rubbished the performance of BET's management, and the latter hit back with the dreaded "C" word (conglomerate).

The spat between Rentokil's Clive Thompson, and John Clark, head of BET, should prove highly entertaining, but is unlikely to benefit shareholders, and tales of insider dealing are a diversion to the real issues concerning shareholder value.

Rentokil would like to focus on what it believes is its superior management technique, but the bid will ultimately boil down to price. BET has performed poorly over the past five years, but there is a view that the company has begun to put its house in order and deserves more than the current share price. Shareholders may also be sceptical of Rentokil's claims of synergy. The businesses are similar, but Rentokil concentrates on higher-margin front-of-house services while BET has focused on lower-margin commodity services: BET cleans the toilets, and Rentokil supplies the tropical plants.

In spite of its protestations, there is little doubt that Rentokil needs BET to guarantee the bidder's self-imposed 20 per cent growth rate for another few years. The larger the company grows, the harder it is to find enough small businesses to deliver the earnings kick.

Rentokil can probably make a good fist of running BET, absorbing it with minimum damage to its own balance sheet. However, the £1.8 billion price is an opening shot, and BET shareholders should sit back and wait for a more considered offer from Mr Thompson.

Burmah Castrol

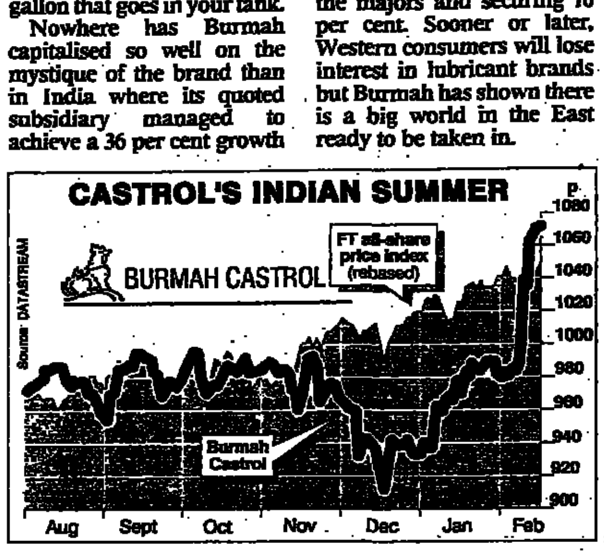
BURMAH Castrol is justifiably smug about its decision to sell its UK petrol stations to Frost Group last July. Since then, the oil majors have decided to call a halt to the erosion of their market share. For independents like Frost, the net result is probably a 50 per cent cut in gross margin and *considerable* loss of volume as big oil slugs it out with the grocers.

That is history and yesterday's Turkish deal merely confirms Burmah's exit from retailing. More interesting is the continuing focus of Burmah on developing the Castrol brand in fast-growing economies, such as Turkey, India and Vietnam.

One of the great puzzles in the world of marketing is why lubricants have retained their brand mystique for consumers. Notwithstanding a little fuss by Shell on the merits of detergents in petrol, oil companies have virtually abandoned any attempt at differentiating the gallon that goes in your tank.

Nowhere has Burmah capitalised so well on the mystique of the brand than in India where its quoted subsidiary managed to achieve a 36 per cent growth in volume last year. Since India opened up to foreign oil companies in 1992, Burmah has been chasing market share, beating off all the majors and securing 16 per cent. Sooner or later, Western consumers will lose interest in lubricant brands but Burmah has shown there is a big world in the East ready to be taken in.

CASTROL'S INDIAN SUMMER



Lloyds TSB

LLOYDS delivered in spades this time. In spite of an unexpectedly high restructuring charge to cover the cost of integrating TSB over the next four years, shareholders can expect a rising payout.

Operating profits came in 16 per cent higher than they would have been if the banks had been combined in 1994. This is in spite of a fall in profits from problem country debt from £328 million to just £50 million, which means that the quality of earnings is improving.

In the current year Lloyds will have its head down putting new management teams in place, working out which premises to use for which businesses, choosing the best technology, assessing the best distribution channels and setting cost and income goals.

Lloyds will remain a strongly cash-generative business with up to 20 per cent of the estimated £350 million annual cost savings coming through this year. The real cost benefits will not emerge until a Private Bill in 1997 enables the bank to merge its branches.

Trading at 13 times 1995 earnings, Lloyds TSB shares are trading at a premium to the sector. However, the cash generation potential of Lloyds TSB holds out the prospect of good dividend growth, justifying the premium rating.

UniChem

YET another bidder is asking the taxpayer to fund the difference between the company's means and the ambitions of its directors. Gross funds and other non-taxpayers who accept UniChem's revised terms can boost the price of the offer by opting for a special dividend of 40p and claim a tax credit of 10p. The special dividend will be paid by Lloyds Chemists and investors not eligible for the extra cash will be paid just 40p from UniChem's resources.

Most taxpayers in Britain are not shareholders in Lloyds Chemists and they should justifiably be enraged that another takeover is being partially financed with public money. The 10p sweetener is worth £12 million; it is difficult to understand why the Chancellor of the Exchequer believes it is efficient to use public funds to inflate asset values on the stock market. Past experience suggests that company directors can overpay without the benefit of public subsidy.

A curious wrinkle in the Lloyds bid is the presence of UBS as adviser to UniChem. The investment bank formed part of Forte's defence team which attacked a similar special dividend offer from Granada. Forte alleged the scheme would fall foul of the tax authorities. No doubt UBS has employed different legal advisers this time round.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	903-902	May	1023 SLR
May	928-927	Jul	unq
Jul	950-949	Sep	—
Sep	972-970	Dec	—
Dec	993-986		
Mar	1004-1007		Volume: 6543

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2108-2107	Nov	1825-1823
May	1959-1955	Jan	1810-1800
Jul	1885-1880	Mar	1800-1770
Sep	1866-1845		Volume: 3615

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	311.2-09.0
Spot 400.5		Mar	307.5-04.0
May	376.9-76.0	May	304.0-00.0
Aug	350.5-53.0	Aug	unq
Oct	321.0-20.5		Volume 1550

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 15

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	111.10	129.96	119.94
[illegible]	-3.82	-4.43	-2.97
Eng/Wales	111.14	130.66	120.09
[illegible]	-3.75	-4.40	-2.27
[illegible]	-3.0	+11.0	-18.0
Scotland	107.32	127.96	119.06
[illegible]	+3.21	-2.99	-5.92
[illegible]	+30.0	+49.0	+45.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.15	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.15	+0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	16.65	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.40	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (May)	17.95	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 173 (n/c)	O: 175 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	184 (n/c)	186 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Mar	174 (+1)	175 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Apr	169 (+5)	170 (+4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	92 (+2)	93 (+2)
Naphtha	173 (+4)	175 (+4)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	165.00-65.25	Jun	149.00-49.25
Apr	156.50-55.75	Jul	148.75 BID
May	150.75-51.00		Vol: 15615

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	17.21-17.22	Jul	16.23-16.26
May	16.66-16.67	Aug	16.16 SLR
Jun	16.39-16.42		Vol: 49355

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	118.50	Mar	108.75
May	120.95	May	110.10
Jul	122.90	Sep	106.00
Sep	111.00	Nov	108.25
Nov	112.40	Jan	110.50
Volume: 287		Volume: 60	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	184.0	184.5
May	unq	215.0
		Volume: 96

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 107.75-108.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 96	1446	1440	1445
Mar 96	1485	1465	1485
Apr 96	1479	1465	1477
Jul 96	1353	1330	1341
Vol: 207 lots		Open interest: 4393	

Index 1437 -3

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2491.0-2482.0	2464.0-2465.0	1412900
Lead ($/tonne)	770.50-771.00	769.00-768.50	156275
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1031.5-1032.5	1052.0-1052.5	654450
Tin ($/tonne)	6170.0-6180.0	6240.0-6245.0	13970
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1609.0-1610.0	1636.0-1636.5	1004550
Nickel ($/tonne)	8195.0-8200.0	8300.0-8305.0	54582

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FT-SE INDEX

[illegible]

February 16, 1996 [illegible]

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 64229	Mar 96	3779.0	3798.0	3761.0	3770.0	12374
	Jun 96	3792.0	3801.0	3776.5	3774.5	816
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3311	Mar 96	4200.0	4200.0	4200.0	4200.0	5
	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 404534	Mar 96	93.89	93.92	93.89	93.91	6814
	Jun 96	94.21	94.22	94.18	94.20	13532
	Sep 96	94.21	94.25	94.19	94.23	7774
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96				94.91	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: [illegible]	Mar 96	96.70	96.73	96.70	96.71	19225
	Jun 96	96.77	96.79	96.73	96.75	31687
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 136594	Mar 96	108-27	109-04	108-22	108-28	51874
	Jun 96	108-08	108-08	108-05	108-06	1664
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.45	119.69	119.48	119.69	2765
	Jun 96	117.96	118.18	117.96	118.18	999
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 252582	Mar 96	98.40	98.66	98.30	98.48	179868
	Jun 96	97.50	97.74	97.47	97.62	18851
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 24460	Mar 96	95.41	95.42	95.36	95.37	903
	Jun 96	95.53	95.54	95.46	95.52	496
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 56064	Mar 96	98.23	98.25	98.21	98.25	2215
	Jun 96	98.11	98.14	98.08	98.12	3725
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 6690:	Mar 96	109.15	109.63	108.15	108.55	56733
	Jun 96	109.00	109.10	109.00	108.20	496

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6[illegible] Finance Hse 6[illegible]
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6[illegible] Low 6[illegible] Week fixed: 6[illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth 6[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth: 5[illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 6[illegible] close 7

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps	5[illegible]	n/a	6[illegible]	6	6
Sterling CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs	5.21	n/a	5.14	5.00	4.90
Building Society CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applns: £4,960m allotted, £800m. Bids: £98.525% received: 48%; Last week: £98.50% received: 19%; Avge rate: £5.9157% last wk £6.0034%; Next week £800m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $403.20-403.60 Close: $404.30-404.80 High: $406.40-406.90
Low: $402.65-403.15 AM: $403.05 PM: $404.85

Krugerrand: $403.75-405.75 (£260.75-262.75)

Platinum: $423.00 (£273.60) Silver: $5.67 (£3.665) Palladium: $142.25 (£92.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 16	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5259-2.5351	2.5298-2.5321	[illegible]pr	2-1[illegible]pr
Brussels	46.40-46.60	46.43-46.53	12-9pr	34-29pr
Copenhagen	8.7200-8.7650	8.7320-8.7540	1[illegible]-1pr	4-3[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9705-0.9739	0.9708-0.9734	11-8pr	28-23pr
Frankfurt	2.2557-2.2647	2.2581-2.2612	[illegible]pr	1[illegible]-1[illegible]pr
Lisbon	234.46-235.82	234.86-235.50	19-45ds	81-123ds
Madrid	190.15-190.83	190.31-190.60	39-49ds	116-133ds
Milan	2437.3-2457.4	2453.4-2457.4	7-9ds	23-25ds
Montreal	2.1246-2.1437	2.1407-2.1437	0.22-0.15pr	0.39-0.28pr
New York	1.5426-1.5498	1.5488-1.5498	0.13-0.11pr	0.36-0.33pr
Oslo	9.8530-9.8910	9.8650-9.8800	1[illegible]pr	3-2[illegible]pr
Paris	7.7670-7.7960	7.7750-7.7880	1[illegible]-1[illegible]pr	3[illegible]-3pr
Stockholm	10.625-10.716	10.683-10.706	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	162.32-163.08	162.77-163.04	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.860-15.970	15.880-15.907	[illegible]pr	1[illegible]-1pr
Zurich	1.8345-1.8470	1.8368-1.8382	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3245-1.3262
Austria	10.26-10.27
Belgium (Com)	30.05-30.06
Canada	1.3812-1.3817
Denmark	5.6534-5.6554
France	5.0310-5.0325
Germany	1.4610-1.4620
Hong Kong	7.7329-7.7338
Ireland	1.5909-1.5929
Italy	1581.75-1583.25
Japan	105.20-105.30
Malaysia	2.5515-2.5530
Netherlands	1.6359-1.6365
Norway	6.3818-6.3893
Portugal	152.03-152.12
Singapore	1.4030-1.4040
Spain	123.10-123.15
Sweden	6.9074-6.9174
Switzerland	1.1885-1.1895

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5466-1.5492
Australia dollar	2.0456-2.0483
Bahrain dinar	0.5735-0.5855
Brazil real*	1.5125-1.5167
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7070-0.7170
Finland markka	7.0025-7.1185
Greece drachma	369.75-376.75
Hong Kong dollar	11.9580-11.9673
India rupee	55.74-56.70
Indonesia rupiah	3506.00-3574.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4545-0.4645
Malaysia ringgit	3.9456-3.9505
New Zealand dollar	2.2788-2.2826
Pakistan rupee	53.06 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7050-5.8310
Singapore dollar	2.1684-2.1713
S Africa rand (com)	5.6410-5.7430
U A E dirham	5.5875-5.7115

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	602	Land Secs	151
ASDA Gp	4,100	Legal & Gn	1,800
Abbey Ntl	2,300	Lloyds TSB	8,500
Allied Dom	1,600	Marks Spr	3,900
Argos	354	NatWst Bk	3,600
Argyll Gp	6,200	Nat Grid	7,000
AB Foods	785	Nat Power	5,600
BAA	3,600	P & O	587
BAT Inds	6,400	Pearson	708
BOC	544	Pilkington	8,300
BP	10,000	PowerGen	390
BSkyB	1,600	Prudential	3,900
BTR	4,700	REXAM	1,500
BT	6,400	RMC	540
Bk of Scot	2,100	RTZ	6,700
Barclays	6,200	Rank Org	2,500
Bass	1,700	Reckitt Col	1,700
Blue Circle	842	Redland	2,100
Boots	1,400	Reed Intl	564
BAe	1,400	Rentokil	21,000
BA	3,600	Reuters	4,600
Brit Gas	29,000	Rolls Royce	12,000
Brit Steel	4,300	Royal Ins	2,500
Burmah Cstl	609	Ryl Bk Scot	4,700
Burton	2,800	Sainsbury	572
Cable Wire	2,800	Schroders	195
Cadbury	1,400	Scot & New	1,300
Carlton Cms	433	Scot Power	1,800
Cm Union	1,000	Svrn Trent	629
Cookson	2,500	Shell Trans	10,000
Courtaulds	747	Siebe	1,100
Dixons	924	SmKl Bch	2,700
Enterpr Oil	2,500	Smith Nph	3,800
For & Col IT	475	Smiths Inds	1,500
GKN	1,300	Sthern Elec	848
GRE	1,800	Std Chartd	1,500
GUS	983	Sun Allnce	1,600
Gen Acc	1,600	TI Gp	2,000
Gen Elec	3,600	Tate & Lyle	1,100
Glaxo Well	4,400	Tesco	8,600
Granada	2,800	Thames W	5,500
Grand Met	1,600	Thrn EMI	284
Greenalls	266	Tomkins	2,400
Guinness	1,900	Unilever	1,500
HSBC	2,600	United Utils	545
Hanson	20,000	Vodafone	9,000
ICI	405	Whitbread	2,300
Kingfisher	2,100	Wilms Hld	1,100
LASMO	11,000	Wolseley	1,900
Ladbroke	20,000	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Feb 16 midday	Feb 15 close
AMP Inc	43	43
AMR Corp	82[illegible]	83
AT & T	66[illegible]	66[illegible]
Abbott Labs	43[illegible]	44
Advanced Micro	20[illegible]	20
Aetna Life	72[illegible]	73
Ahmanson (HF)	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Air Prod & Chem	53[illegible]	52[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Feb 16 midday	Feb 15 close
Eastman Kodak	76[illegible]	77[illegible]
Eaton Corp	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Edison Intl	17[illegible]	17[illegible]
Emerson Elec	83[illegible]	84[illegible]
Engelhard Corp	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Enron Corp	38[illegible]	39
Enserch	30	29[illegible]
Ethyl Corp	11	11[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Feb 16 midday	Feb 15 close
Oracle	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Oryx Energy Co	13[illegible]	13[illegible]
Owens Corning	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
PHH Corp	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
PPG Industries	45[illegible]	46[illegible]
PNC Bank	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
PP&L Res	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Paccar Inc	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TAKE COVER

Richard Thomson

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Perking up

TAKE COVER 35

Insurance in aftermath of Docklands bomb

WEEKEND MONEY

PENSION WATCH

Money guide focuses on your future

Richard Thomson and **Caroline Merrell** measure up the New York and London markets

Trouble in the bubble on Wall St?

Vinik: feared in market

The air of disbelief in the New York stock market this week was almost palpable. Investors could not believe their luck; for seven straight days, the Dow Jones industrial average had reached record highs and burst through 5,600, a level that most analysts had not expected to see until late this year at best.

Investors, wondering whether this is the bubble before a 1987-style crash, are trying to find clues in the behaviour of the most powerful figure on Wall Street, Jeffrey Vinik, manager of the largest US mutual fund, the $56 billion Fidelity Magellan. The mammoth fund, with its three million investors, is equivalent in size to one third of the entire UK unit trust industry.

Mr Vinik, 36, is a self-effacing, low-key number cruncher, the kind of man you might not notice in a crowd. Those who know him describe him as a "regular guy" who gets in to his office at 7am and leaves promptly at 5pm to get home in time to put his three children to bed. Then he does another three hours work at home, planning his trading strategy for the next day. Under Mr Vinik's stewardship, the Magellan has trebled in size. The previous manager resigned citing overwork.

The Magellan fund's sheer size is not the only thing that makes Mr Vinik so feared. Famous investors such as Warren Buffett tend to buy their shares and hold them for years or even decades. The Magellan fund, in contrast, is actively managed, which means it is constantly switching sectors.

Take high technology stocks. Mr Vinik was bullish last year and put 45 per cent of the Magellan fund into the sector. Initially, the sector motored ahead, but faltered towards the end of the year. The market started to wonder how long Mr Vinik would hold on to his high-tech shares. Technology share prices started to fall simply because people feared that Mr Vinik might sell. In fact, he was already selling, but he did it so subtly that the market was unaware. This did not keep him out of trouble, however. Towards the end of last year, he publicly sang the praises of several stocks. When it emerged a few weeks later that he had actually been selling the shares at the same time, there was an outcry. The authorities moved in to take a look, but all that happened is that Fidelity has forbidden all of its fund managers to speak publicly.

In his most recent controversial move, Mr Vinik has put more than 30 per cent of Magellan into cash and bonds, a very high figure for any equity investment fund. Now, Mr Vinik seems to be waiting for the inevitable correction, if not crash, in share prices. No wonder the rest of the market is worried.

So far, Mr Vinik's decision to hold more cash has not been followed by a stampede. Many analysts take a more sanguine view, pointing out that the advance is much more broadly based than that of 1987. They also note that the key historical relationship between the equity and bond markets in still in line. "This year, the bond market is strong, while in 1987 the bond market was weak," says David Schulman, equity strategist at Salomon Brothers.

And while corporate profits may level out this year, lower economic activity is being balanced in investors' minds with the benefits of lower interest rates and subdued inflation. In other words, the optimism looks well-founded in reality.

Difficult year ahead after leap in share prices

After a remarkable rise in share prices last year, those in the City who gaze into crystal balls are giving warning that the UK stock market is unlikely to deliver quite the same performance again in 1996.

This will be a difficult year for the UK, analysts say, because of a slowdown in economic growth and the proximity of a general election.

Takeover bids and big rises in some technology shares drove the market up in 1995, with much of the boost in technology shares a reaction to some phenomenal increases in the US technology sector. Commentators do not expect this to be repeated in 1996, and predictions overall for growth in UK share prices in the next ten months are modest. As ever, the experts are divided. Some fund managers, such as M&G, believe the UK market will rise by about 10 per cent, while economists such as Robert Barry, of BZW, expect no significant rise in the rest of 1996.

Richard Hughes, M&G Investment Management joint managing director, said: "The market has generally been creeping up since the beginning of the year, on the back of lower interest rates and the strength of the US market." He expects the FT-SE 100 to end the year at about 4,000.

"UK companies with US subsidiaries will be helped by what is going on in the US," he says, but he is more cautious about manufacturing, particularly companies with big exposure to exporting to France and Germany. There are those who believe that continental Europe is on the brink of recession, but Mr Hughes maintains that a lot depends on France and Germany, although the UK does export to other parts of the world.

He does not expect the retail sector to boom. "There are still many fears about unemployment, and with things like the lottery taking money, it is not suprising that people are not spending," he says.

There is a more cautious tone at BZW. Mr Barry says: "It is quite difficult to say what is going to happen. The signals are pretty unclear. Manufacturing output actually fell at the end of the year, as did business optimism. On the other hand, retail sales were strong at the end of last year, and it looks like January is going to be quite strong."

The end of the year, he says, could be difficult for the stock market, with the possibility of a change of government and possible increases in inflation and interest rates.

Stephen Whittaker, head of UK equities for Perpetual, the fund manager, says: "We think there could be a sharp rise in the market for the short term, because of the rally in the bond market." He is more pessimistic for the outlook for the year. He sees little recovery in manufacturing, and thinks that growth will be in the financial sector. He does not expect the UK to follow the US market.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Our passion for plastic prospers

Expensive UK credit cards face new competition, says **Anne Ashworth**

The British love their flexible friends, holding no fewer than 26 billion cards, which we used to spend £41 billion in 1995.

However, our affection for credit cards can blind us to their shortcomings. Although the bank base rate was cut to 6.25 per cent on January 18, the 50 per cent of card holders who use their plastic to borrow are still prepared to pay rates of more than 20 per cent.

Barclaycard, for example, has an Annual Percentage Rate of 22.60 per cent, plus a £10 annual fee, designed to raise revenues from those customers who clear their balances in full each month. If you borrow £1,000 for a year, you will pay £224.14 in interest. More than 50 per cent of card customers pay off their bill each month but the card companies earn interest on 70 per cent of the amount borrowed on cards.

In recent years, there have been various attempts to challenge the sway of the big banks over the credit card market. The Save & Prosper Group offers two cards, the first with an APR of 14.6 per cent and a £12 annual fee, the second with a base rate-linked return, currently 11.8 per cent. Holders pay no fee but do not enjoy the perk of an interest-free credit period, which, for many, is the principal attraction.

The latest interlopers come from America. After the launch this week of the RBS Advanta card, a joint venture between the Royal Bank of Scotland and Advanta Corporation, a Pennsylvania-based credit card company, other US operations, including the People's Bank of Connecticut are planning UK card operations.

Ron Urquhart, managing director of People's Bank, believes the British can be persuaded to switch to lower cost cards. "The situation in the UK today is very much like that in America ten years ago. The Americans were not interest-rate sensitive. But they are now very much aware of rates and charges," he said.

People's Bank US cards carry a rate of 13.9 per cent. The RBS Advanta VISA has an eight-week, interest-free credit period, no fee and an APR of 15.9 per cent. The rate will move in line with the base rate, whose increases credit card companies have traditionally been swift to follow, while ignoring any reductions for as long as they can.

The card will be marketed by mail to those who have, in the past, shown a propensity to borrow. RBS Advanta claims that its rate is low because it does not have the high street banks' steep administrative costs.

But for those apt to forget their card payments, RBS Advanta may impose a £10 penalty if you go over your credit limit. There is another discretionary charge if you are 15 days late with a payment.

Perking up Eurotunnel

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Never invest in a company for shareholder perks or tax breaks. Back in the dark days of November 1987, after the gale and the market crash, most of us did not, I trust, plunge a combined £800 million into Eurotunnel stock merely for the free travel concessions. Strong growth in the share price as opening drew nearer was the big attraction to many, who believed the prospectus and the Warburg hype. The prospect of a reliable rising income, within a few years of the tunnel emptying the cross-Channel searoute, was compelling for those planning ahead for retirement. By now, sadly, the travel perks may be the best bet.

Still less should those who invested £600 million in the 1990 rights issue have been lured by half-price travel. But many stayed loyal to avoid missing those travel perks once the tunnel was built. Otherwise, would nearly 740,000 private investors have stayed on as the project's finances slithered from disappointment to disaster?

Believe it or not, 1987 investors could have multiplied their money about 4.5 times, provided they sold at the speculative peak in mid-1989. Even in January 1994, when the tunnel was dug and financial woes resolved ahead of the final £900 million issue, the units briefly regained 550p. After that, it was downhill almost all the way to 80p, valuing Eurotunnel at just £720 million. Hopes that something will turn up, always present before opening day, are now dim.

This week, financial mediators were appointed under French law. Eurotunnel remains solvent only because there is no wish for it to be insolvent. Should pedants together demand their due, the emperor could not pay. Builders, bankers, managers and shareholders created a great commercial asset. It has transformed transport to the Continent. In the new millennium, it should bring great boons to traders and travellers and generate vast revenue surpluses.

This side of the horizon, however, it has no prospect of making a decent return on the capital invested. Interests of project managers and investors were fatally split. Real costs burgeoned. Progress was delayed. Equipment was late. Early traffic disappointed. Worst of all, inflation raged while the project was being built, then subsided.

The best investors can probably hope for their shares is to keep a worthwhile interest in a company made viable by banks swapping a lot of debt for shares and cutting interest rates on the rest. For most of us 120,000 remaining British investors, however, returns from travel perks could now be greater. These cannot be bought or sold, so it is not reflected in market prices. If you bought just 100 units in 1987, now worth about £80, you are entitled to just one free return car trip on the shuttle. On official fares, this could be worth £200 and up to £350 net of the fee for compulsory prior registration. In practice, discounts could make the saving much less. If you own 150 of the 1990 shares, you are entitled to 50 per cent off one return trip and even 45 are worth a half-price single fare. Nearly 300,000 shareholders need to act soon because these trips must be taken by the end of October this year.

More shares earn privileges over many years. At the top end, 1,500 shares, worth about £1,200, entitle you to unlimited crossings for the length of the concession, free if bought at the 1987 issue or half-price for 1990 rights shares. If you live in Manchester and holiday in Jamaica or Lakeland, this is useless. If you like weekends in Amsterdam, have a *pied-à-terre* in Normandy or a son in Brussels, the perks may yield far more than reinvesting the proceeds of your shares. That is also true for intermediate holdings.

This works only if liquidation is avoided by a deal with the banks and if the directors do not cancel the perks as a condition of that pain-sharing deal. Sir Alastair Morton, the British co-chairman, assures me they will not. But this may be a hard task. Perk-holders should help him by making their views known, and refuse to agree any deal that removes their biggest remaining asset.

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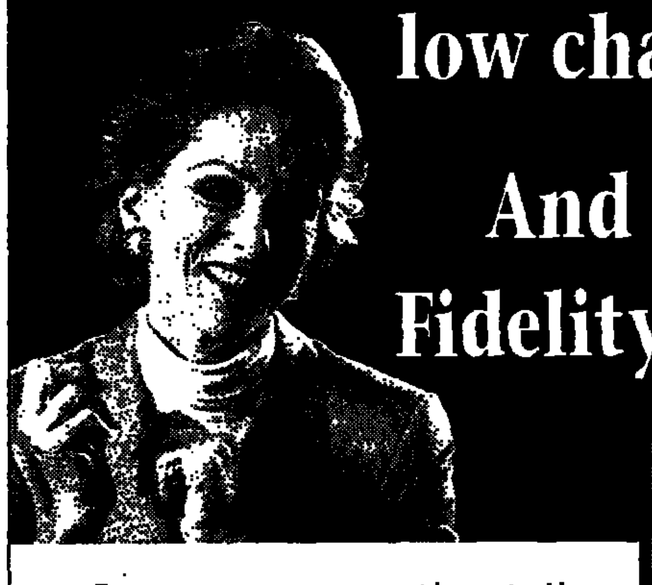


هكذا في الاصل

Karen Zagor warns that merger handouts carry tax implications

A price to be paid for those windfalls

In the excitement of receiving a cash or shares windfall from a building society merger, conversion or loyalty bonus scheme, members would do well to remember Benjamin Franklin's famous adage: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes".

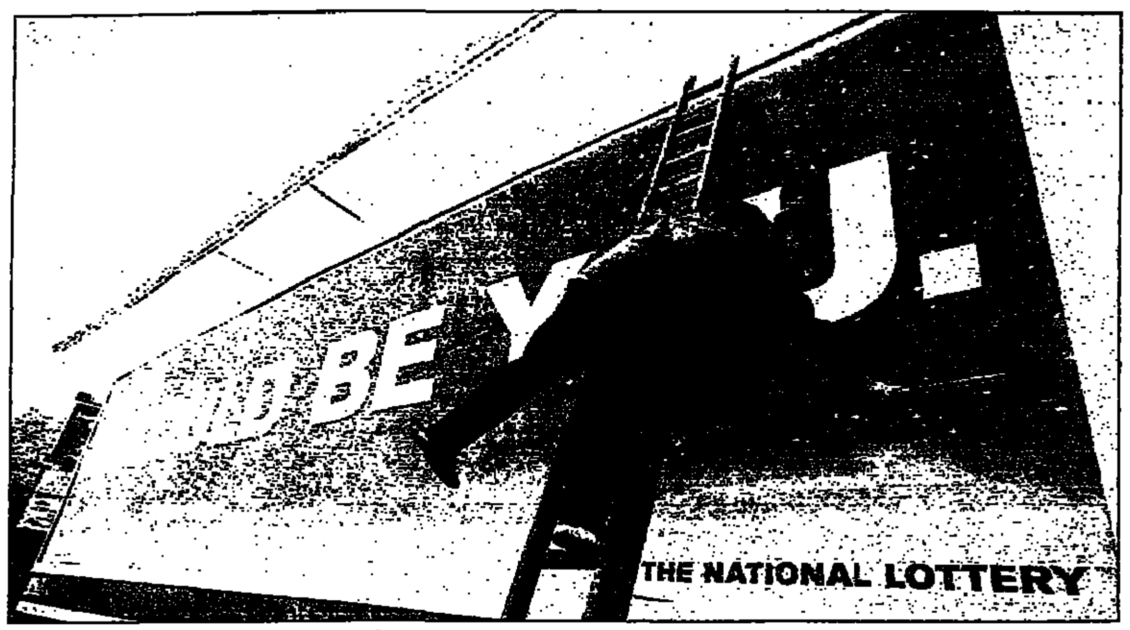
The Inland Revenue warns that these handouts will be treated as capital gains and taxed. This applies to everything from shares being issued from mergers and conversions to the cash payouts promised to loyal members of the Britannia.

The reason behind the taxation is that the gains — whether in the form of shares or cash — are derived from an asset that you own. As such, you *are receiving gains on your capital*, and capital gains are subject to tax.

Members can be thankful that their payouts do not fall under the income tax umbrella. For most people, income tax is inevitable. Capital gains tax, on the other hand, is less threatening because the majority of taxpayers do not use their full annual capital gains tax exemption. The CGT allowance for the 1996-97 tax year is £6,300.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, senior tax consultant at accountants Chantrey Vellacott, says: "If you are going to receive shares from a society conversion or merger, then there is *no* tax to pay when you first get the shares. But when you decide to sell, there may be capital gains tax to pay." As a result, it is important to bear the tax implications in mind when timing the sale of your shares. If you plan to sell the shares in a year when you have already made substantial capital gains, then the tax liability may be greater than any gains from the sale of the shares.

A more pressing problem is that the cash or shares could push you into a higher tax bracket for all or part of the capital gains. "Any capital gains are added to your total income and treated as the top slice," says Mr Fitzpatrick. "If you were very close to being a higher rate taxpayer, this could tip you over the edge."



No gain without pain: members of lottery syndicates could be landed with a liability for inheritance tax

Mr Fitzpatrick notes that recipients of free shares do not have the benefit of CGT base costs, which allow a taxpayer to deduct the initial cost of buying the asset from the proceeds, thereby offsetting the gains against the costs. Since members have not had to buy their shares, essentially they have no base costs.

If your newly converted bank decides to reward shareholders with dividends, these, too, will be taxed. Dividends are usually taxed at 20 per cent at source, but higher-rate taxpayers will have to reimburse the Revenue for the shortfall.

The tax implications of being rewarded for your loyalty through reduced mortgage or higher savings rates are more subtle. A reduced mortgage means the amount of tax relief on your mortgage interest payments (Miras) will also be reduced. Given that interest rates are very low at present and that Miras has been whittled back to 15 per cent and only applies to the first £30,000 of a loan, most borrowers will gain more from the rate cut than they will lose from the reduced relief.

Savers who get improved rates should earn more from their investment, and investment income is subject to tax. At the moment, that tax is 25 per cent for basic-rate taxpayers. Tax on savings will drop to 20 per cent in April for basic-rate taxpayers with taxable income above £3,200. Higher-rate taxpayers, with more than £25,500 of taxable income, will have to pay 40 per cent tax on their savings income.

Julie Evans, tax specialist at Pannell Kerr Foster is not convinced that the Revenue is right in imposing cpaital gains tax on the cash bonus paid to Cheltenham & Gloucester building society members over the mereger with Lloyds Bank. "We have been in correspondence with the Inland Revenue and are currently considering the arguments that they have advanced. In the meantime I recommend that anyone liable to pay tax under the Revenue's ruling seeks advice before signing their cheque."

Anyone who fails to tell the Revenue about any capital gain by October 31, or who forgets to put it on their tax return, could face hefty penalties.

Lottery and Premium Bond winners fare better than building society members when it comes to tax. According to a Revenue spokesman: "There is no tax on any gambling winnings."

Members of lottery syndicates, however, need to be careful. If the winnings belong to one ticketholder, who then distributes the funds between all the members of the syndicate, there could be inheritance tax liabilities if the winning ticketholder dies within seven years.

To prevent any inheritance tax problems, syndicate members must all agree that any winnings will be distributed by the winning ticketholder among all the members who have contributed to purchasing the tickets. "We do not stipulate that it is in writing, it could be a verbal agreement," a Revenue spokesman said. Without such an agreement, every syndicate member could pay inheritance tax if their share of the pot is more than £154,000. They should also note that inheritance tax is paid, universally, at the 40 per cent rate. The threshold rises to £200,000 in April.

Get in a fix, and stick with it for five years

It is now six weeks into the new season for tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). Although some of the more competitive fixed-rate accounts have been withdrawn, financial advisers believe some of the remaining fixed-rate Tessas continue to offer a good deal. However, they emphasise that these accounts are only for those who are committed to leaving their money alone for the five-year term of the product.

Alastair Altham, Johnson Fry Asset Managers marketing director, said the rates offered by some providers on their fixed-rate Tessas were higher than the five-year money market rates — which give an indication about what the City believes will happen to interest rates over the next five years. "Some societies appear to be fixing the money at a high rate in order to buy market share," he said.

But he warned investors to be careful of the transfer penalties which are being imposed on some of the fixed-rate accounts. He said: "180 days' loss of interest is not uncommon." Investors who are considering a fixed-rate Tessa should be absolutely sure that they intend to stay invested for the five years, he said.

Clydesdale Bank, for example, is offering a recommended 7.4 per cent fixed-rate account. Those who want to transfer will have to pay a transfer penalty of £30 plus an extra amount which will be based on the difference between the fixed rate and the prevailing rate of interest. Mr Altham said: "The extra cost is for unwinding the fixed-rate deal."

The choice for those interested in a variable-rate Tessa is much more straightforward. Anyone who wants to take out a variable-rate Tessa should get the best rate they can, with the lowest transfer penalties.

When the first range of Tessas was launched, many savers made their choice based on high initial rates offered by banks and societies. Unfortunately, some of these high rates were subsequently cut, leaving investors unable to switch out of uncompetitive products because of transfer penalties. Among those recommended by both Johnson Fry and by *Moneyfacts*, the magazine, is the 8 per cent variable rate on offer from the Northern Rock Building Society.

This is currently the highest rate available on the market. If this rate becomes uncompetitive, savers can switch out for £30, although the society could increase this fee.

Mr Altham said: "If you go for one with a low transfer penalty, you can vote with your feet and get out if you want to." Those looking for a new Tessa, should also take into account any bonus that they could be in line for if the society converts or is taken over. Those with maturing Tessas in a society which has already announced its intention to float or be taken over, should remember that any bonus or shares they receive will be based on the size of their balance. These savers are in effect locked in to the society.

None of the Tessas in the best-buy table below are offered by the three societies — the Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Halifax — which are in the process of converting. Investors who have never had a Tessa before, or who are not tied in to keeping funds in one of the three societies mentioned, could gamble on putting money into a society which could convert. Those tipped include the West Bromwich, Bristol & West and the Skipton.

A recent survey from *Which?*, the magazine for the Consumers' Association, found that based on past performance, building societies paid out £300 more on average than banks. It chose Tessas from some of the smaller societies, such as Dunfermline as "best buys".

Mr Altham said: "If past performance is anything to go by, then some of the better Tessas will ultimately be offered by some of the smallest institutions."

CAROLINE MERRELL

FIRST TESSAS	Telephone	Notice of term	£ deposit	% Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	5yr	9,000	7.30	F/Yly
Bank of Ireland	01753 516516	5yr	500	7.25	F/Yly
Earl Shilton BS	01455 844422	5yr	1	7.25	Yly
Principality BS	01222 344188	5yr	25	7.25	Yly
Cheltenham & Gloucester	0800 717505	5yr	3,000	7.25	Yly
Allied Trust Bank	0171 6260879	5yr	9,000	7.25	Yly
Dunfermline BS	01383 627727	5yr	3,000	7.20	Yly
Market Harborough BS	01858 463244	5yr	9,000	7.15	Yly
Monmouthshire BS	01633 840454	5yr	1	7.10	Yly
Universal BS	0191 2320973	5yr	1	7.10	Yly

FOLLOW-ON TESSAS	Telephone	Notice of term	£ deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	5yr	9,000	8.00	Yly
Cheltenham & Gloucester	0800 717505	5yr	9,000	7.75	Yly
Bath BS	01225 423271	5yr	1	7.50	Yly
Mercantile BS	0191 2959500	5yr	1	7.50	Yly
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	5yr	3,001	7.50	Yly
Clydesdale Bank	0800 222426	5yr	9,000	7.40	F/OM
West Bromwich BS	0121 6808024	5yr	3,000	7.35	F/Yly
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	5yr	9,000	7.30	F/Yly
Bank of Ireland	01753 516516	5yr	500	7.25	F/Yly
Allied Trust Bank	0171 6260879	5yr	9,000	7.25	Yly

Source: Moneyfacts

Benefit rooted in days of the housekeeper

Women looking after disabled husbands are the victims of tax discrimination, **Sarah Jones** finds

Thousands of women are being discriminated against by the taxman, when they are trying to juggle working, bringing up children and looking after a disabled husband. The Government admits that the situation is anachronistic, but this week again obstructed attempts by Parliament to make amends.

Additional personal allowance (APA), which gives tax relief of £1,720 (£1,790 for the coming tax year), is generally claimed by unmarried or separated couples with children and by single parents. It can also be claimed by a married man whose wife is unable to look after herself due to illness or disability — on top of his married couple's allowance. It cannot be claimed by a married woman with children whose husband is disabled.

"The Government appreciates that it is an anomaly," an Inland Revenue spokeswoman says. "But it goes back to the days when a married man could claim a housekeeper allowance if he had an incapacitated wife and needed to pay someone to look after his children. The purpose of the allowance has been superceded by social security. So the question now is whether the allowance is abolished altogether."

APA, like the married couple's allowance and Miras, is now restricted to 15 per cent. That means between 8,000 and 9,000 working women with disabled husbands are losing £258 a year (£268.50 in the coming tax year). Over a six-year period it could add up to more than £1,500.

This week the Government refused to back an amendment to the Finance Bill tabled by Liberal Democrat MPs that would have given women the same APA as men. A Treasury spokesman says: "The Government believes people should be helped through social security. Tax relief is not an efficient way to help the disabled."

Ken Kelling, of Caring Costs, the charity that has campaigned for a change to APA rules, disagrees with that interpretation. "There is a strong economic justification for extending APA to women. So many carers have to give up work, thereby giving up pension rights and other means of providing for themselves. The tax allowance would encourage women to combine paid work with caring. That is far better than relying on social security."

As well as the controversy over disabled spouses, there is often confusion over when divorcees with children can claim APA. The rules say that the child must be "resident", but that does not mean all the time. The child can stay as little as one night a week or alternate weekends and the non-custodial parent can claim APA. The deciding factor is often whether the child has its own room and keeps toys and clothes there.

It is also usually assumed that the allowance has to be apportioned between divorced parents. But where there are two children both parents could claim the full allowance for each child. An unmarried couple living together with their children can claim only one APA between them.

LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION

A claim could be made for some downstairs' staff

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE TAX ALLOWANCES

IF YOUR personal circumstances change — you get married or divorced, turn 65 or 75 for example — your tax allowances will change. However, never assume that the Inland Revenue knows what is happening. It is up to you to tell them.

Everyone is entitled to a personal allowance of £3,795 in the coming tax year. This rises to £4,910 for those aged 65 to 74 and to £5,090 for those of 75 and over, subject to their income not exceeding £15,200 a year. If you are married and living together you are entitled to the married couple's allowance in addition to the personal allowance. The amount is £1,790, but rises to £3,115 for those aged 65 and over, and to £3,155 for those aged 75 of over.

Additional personal allowance is also set at £1,790. Widow's bereavement allowance allows a further £1,790 to be taken tax-free in the year of the husband's death and in the following year. Blind person's allowance means registered blind people are entitled to an additional £1,250 a year.

The introduction of a restriction on most allowances (except personal allowance and blind person's allowance), to 20 per cent in 1994 and to 15 per cent last year, has meant the words "allowance restriction" have appeared on tax codes. Your tax code basically has two columns. On the left are your allowances. On the right your reductions, which includes allowance restriction.

"Rather than simply reduce the allowance, which would have been politically difficult, the Government has reduced the rate," says David Brodie of TaxAid. "*In many ways it is a progressive move*, since it has hit higher rate taxpayers the hardest."

If you are a basic rate taxpayer a married couple's allowance of £1,790 should be worth £429.60 (£1,790 x 24 per cent). But since the allowance is restricted to 15 per cent it is only £268.50. The difference is £161.10. That is multiplied by 100 and divided by 24 to get an allowance restriction of £671.25. It is rounded down to £670. The amount of allowance left in your tax code becomes £1,790 less £670 which equals £1,120. Twenty-four per cent of £1,120 is £269.80, the same as £1,790 at 15 per cent. Similar calculations are done for higher rate taxpayers.

"If you don't understand your tax code and its allowance reduction you should definitely write to your local tax office and ask them to explain," Mr Brodie says.

Tax Allowances and Reliefs is available from your local tax office. TaxAid has a helpline for people on low incomes. Tel. 0171 624 3768.

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COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

For more than two years, Union Finance, a Southend consultancy, has peddled its questionable promise that you can escape, without pain, from negative equity.

The firm told thousands of desperate homeowners that they were entitled to claim on the mortgage indemnity policies taken out for their properties. Although this insurance covers the lender, not the borrower, Union Finance asserted that the wording of some policies was ambiguous. Freedom could be yours for a £350 fee.

Weekend Money repeatedly asked the building societies why they failed to refute Union Finance's claims, which encouraged hapless borrowers to hand in their keys in the belief that they could walk off into the sunset debt-free.

But the societies equivocated. Institutions which make much of the support they give to customers in difficulties would not publicly challenge an organisation that threatened to lead such people into deeper misery.

Their silence gave implicit support to Union Finance, leading more people to believe that there was substance to the firm's claims.

Finally, the Bradford & Bingley, as we report on page 37, has used the courts to undermine the Union Finance argument. Thanks to this society's diligence, Union Finance may now face closure. As before, Union Finance bosses are full of bravado. Their optimism is in marked contrast to the mood of the clients who took their advice and now face pursuit from their lenders.

Still more evidence will emerge this week of the inability of lenders to speak out, even when this could be in the interests of their customers. A new report will disclose that repossessed borrowers are seldom told that a second-hand market exists for unwanted endowment policies.

If a policy can be sold on to an investor who collects the proceeds at maturity, it will fetch a far better price than the miserly cash-in value offered by the insurance company. The extra money helps to shrink the shortfall between the repossessed property's value and the outstanding loan.

Around a fifth of the £2.5 billion-worth of policies surrendered each year would find a buyer. But, as the report has uncovered, information on resale is not shared with borrowers because it might constitute financial advice — a strange interpretation of legislation intended to protect the unwary. Lenders should realise that silence is not always a virtue, especially when it causes hardship.

Annuities strife

VOLTAIRE encouraged the elderly to live as long as possible to enrage those paying their annuities. He himself contrived to survive until 84. But even if you can live to 89, the provider of your annuity may still have the last laugh.

On January 23, a reader of *The Times* informed Hill Samuel Life Assurance that his spinster aunt had died on January 11. The company still paid out her January pension, a princely £45.31 from an annuity purchased in 1970. But a few days later, it demanded the money back in a piece of bureaucratic pennypinching that cost more in time and correspondence than the sum involved. When Weekend Money questioned this meanness, it suddenly became a "clerical error" meriting compensation.

Quite right. An annuity ceases on death, not at an insurance company's whim.

Tessa complaints rise

Caroline Merrell discovers why a Tessa payout took almost two weeks before it could be reinvested

Complaints about delays and inefficiencies in the administration of maturing tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), as disclosed by *The Times*, continue to mount. Some building societies are being so slow to send out the maturity certificates for their Tessas that savers are missing out on some of the better offers on the market. The procrastination is seen as a cynical move to retain the Tessa funds which for the banks, in particular, provide a cheap source of funds.

One aggrieved investor is Michael Grey, 80, a London reader who is so angry about his treatment from the West Bromwich Building Society that he has complained to the Building Societies Ombudsman. Mr Grey appeared to do everything in his power to make sure he got the proceeds from his maturing Tessa in time to reinvest in one of the better new deals available.

He said: "My Tessa matured on the February 1, so I telephoned on January 29 to tell them I intended to pick up a cheque. They told me I could not do that, and asked me instead to send my account book by registered post, which I did. I checked to make sure it arrived on time, which it did on 30 January."

"They then said they could not issue a cheque and it had to go through the bank clearing system. I said I needed a cheque, and eventually on the 2 February they sent the cheque." Unfortunately, in spite of being sent by recorded delivery, Mr Grey did not get the cheque until February 6.

DES JENSON

Tired of waiting: Michael Grey contacted the ombudsman

Even if this had been in time for Mr Grey to take advantage of one of the better fixed rates available from the Northern Rock, which it was not — the offer closed on February 3 — he would not have been able to reinvest because the West Bromwich failed to enclose any maturity certificates.

Mr Grey said: "I did not receive my Tessa cheque until February 6, as it will take another three or four days to clear, these people are taking liberties with members of the public." But the West Bromwich defends its actions keenly, saying: "The society wrote to Mr Grey six weeks before the maturity date, February 1, asking what he would like to do with the proceeds.

"On January 30, just two days before maturity, we received his reply which requested that we send him a cheque. For security reasons and speed we prefer to make such payments by BACS transfer.

"Mr Grey then requested that we send the payment by cheque, which we did on February 2." Delays in the post meant that it did not arrive until February 6. The society only sent out the maturity certificates on February 13, after prompting from *The Times*. It said it only sent them if a customer requests them.

Mr Grey is understandably angry — it has taken nearly two weeks for him to be able to reinvest his money, during which time many good offers have closed. The ombudsman is looking into his complaint.

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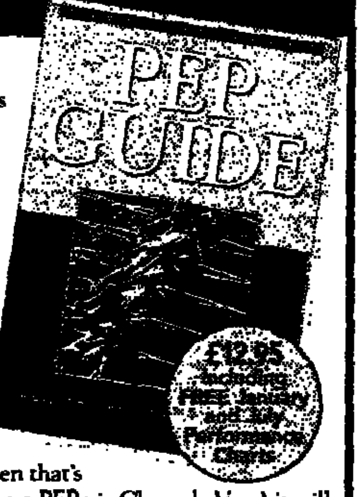

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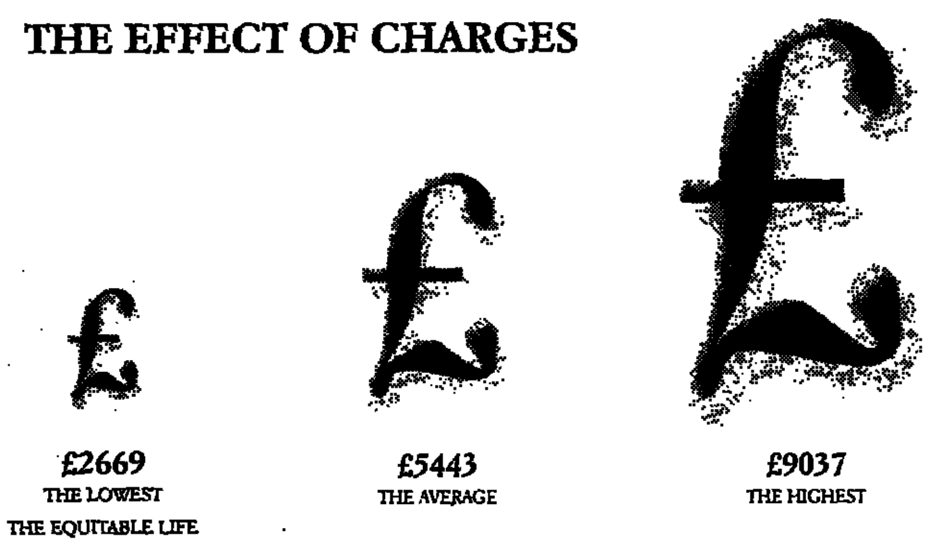

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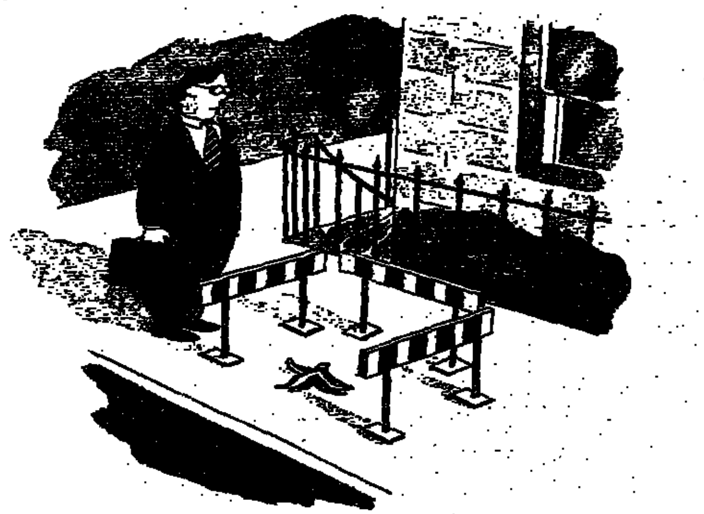

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Janet Bush rehearses the arguments for and against a European single currency

Monetary union: what does it mean?

DAVID LYTTLETON

HELMUT KOHL, the German leader, put his future on the line this week by warning members of the Christian Democrat parliamentary group that he will stand for re-election in 1998 only if he is given full party backing on the single European currency. In doing so, he is hoping to save the European economic and monetary union (EMU), and to restore order among dissidents. Here, Weekend Money looks at the issues, and asks how Britain and its European neighbours would be affected if EMU goes ahead, and where Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, stands on the issue.

Q What would be the advantages of a single currency?

A The architects of monetary union argue that the single currency is necessary to make the single European market work. By having a single currency, those doing business and trading in the single market would avoid the uncertainty and expense of fluctuating currencies. It would also prevent so-called competitive devaluations where one member sought to gain advantage over others, boosting its export potential through a weaker currency.

Q What are the disadvantages of the single currency?

A The fundamental flaw of *the single currency is* that the exchange rate can no longer be used as a tool of economic management, leaving policy-makers only with the option of fiscal policy and structural economic measures to influence the economy. The fear of opponents of monetary union is that, without near-perfect economic convergence before the formation of the single currency, existing economic advantage and disad*vantage in different countries* would become permanent and be exacerbated over time.

Q Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, warns that progressing too swiftly towards monetary union could bring serious political tensions. What exactly does he mean?

A He believes that genuine economic convergence cannot happen within the very *tough timetable set by the* Maastricht Treaty and that any attempt to form the single currency before convergence would lead to permanent pockets of economic success in some areas of the union, and areas of high unemployment, poverty and underperformance in other areas. This could lead to deepening political problems and even, some have suggested, to war.

Q Where does the British Government stand on the issue of the single currency?

A The Government has come to a compromise stance on monetary union because of deep splits within the Conservative Party between pro-Europeans such as Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and a large group of Euro-sceptics *on the right. It takes part in the* continuing European debate but has chosen to opt out of the single currency — when and if it happens. It has made it clear that there is no question of Britain re-entering the Exchange Rate Mechanism in the near-term and the Maastricht Treaty stipulates that currencies should trade within normal bands within the ERM for two years before joining the single currency. The British policy is "wait and see" (and hope that the whole experiment collapses).

Q What are the chances the 1999 deadline for monetary union will be met?

A It is exceedingly unlikely that more than a handful of countries will have met the economic convergence criteria laid down in the Maastricht Treaty. It is possible that some *countries may choose to fix* themselves permanently against the mark in bilateral agreements but this would not constitute the single currency in the sense that it is envisaged in the Treaty. The current debate revolves around whether the Maastricht criteria should be made less strict to allow a critical mass of European countries to join the single currency. This is vehemently opposed by Germany and Britain among others.

Q If 1999 is met by others, is there any chance that Britain would join a single currency by that date?

A It is, on current economic projections, conceivable that Britain will be one of very few countries to have met the Maastricht criteria. But the decision to join is political and may depend on which *party is in power at the time.* Labour is less Euro-sceptic than the Government but it is still unclear whether it would choose to join.

Q Could Britain survive outside the system?

A Yes, and would probably *thrive.*

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First 100 days of the euro

David Rudnick on how a switch to new money would affect you

Q Would the pound go out of circulation immediately?

A The pound will not become worthless overnight. It will continue to be legal tender for six months after currency conversion, but for an indefinite period after that the Bank of England will accept sterling notes and coins and change them into euros.

Q The euro would be worth the same as the present basket of currencies known as the ecu — about 80p. But how would people pay for items, such as a packet of sweets, worth less than a euro?

A This is yet to be decided. The euro is likely to be broken into 100 units, like pence to a pound. The European Commission expects the euro to be known colloquially as the pound in Britain, the mark in Germany and so on. Similarly the present penny will metamorphose into a (euro)penny, and the pfennig into a (euro)pfennig.

Q How would bank accounts be affected?

A High street banks, such as NatWest, foresee no problems. Current account holders will simply have their balance converted to euros (today's rate would be about 1.25 to the pound).

Q That sounds fine, but will the banks quietly pass on the costs of changing their systems over to the euro (estimated at more than £900 million at 1994 prices) to their customers?

A Banks generally point out that since conversion costs will be spread over a number of years, they will not be particularly onerous.

Q Will homebuyers with mortgages be affected by a changeover?

A A single currency will lead to more competition in mortgage markets, in spite of the persistence of different legal, valuation and land-title systems across Europe. Homebuyers will be able to shop around for better mortgage terms, though UK mortgage lenders compare well on cost and efficiency. On the downside, the European Central Bank is likely to use short-term rates to maintain the euro's exchange rate against the dollar and the yen, and this would hit UK homebuyers disproportionately, since most of us have variable rate mortgages, unlike our fixed rate European neighbours.

Q How will pensions be affected through adopting the euro?

A Private fund holders and those outside index-linked schemes are expected to benefit from reduced long-term inflation. So will people retiring to Spain since pension purchasing power will no longer be eroded by a weakening pound. The euro will also make it easier for mobile employees living in different EU states throughout their career to obtain fully transferable pension rights.

On the downside, the severe convergence criteria on public debt, which form a key entry requirement to the euro, would, if adhered to, slash state spending on pensions. Private and company schemes may have to expand sharply to cover the growing pension needs of our ageing population. However, pension fund managers voice cautious optimism that adopting the euro would, on balance, enhance the value of UK funds by ending the high currency risk of investing in sterling-denominated assets. Two thirds of UK pension fund assets are in domestic shares, bonds and cash, so the funds and their savers stand to gain from an influx of European money reassured by euro membership.

Q Are retailers preparing for the currency changeover if and when it comes?

A Only the most general thought has been given so far, based in part on recent experience of metrication. Dual pricing of products and conversion tables are likely to be displayed, but the big retail chains are hoping that the day never dawns. Sainsbury's finance director says: "We've got one hell of a logistical headache coming our way."

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Take cover from bomb damage

One week after an IRA bomb ripped through Docklands, the country's biggest insurance companies are making their assessments of the cost of the damage.

Unlike the Bishopsgate blast in the City of London in April 1993, when prestigious office blocks were targeted and the total bill came to £650 million, last Friday's blast affected many residential flats. As surveyors pick through the wreckage of the South Quay office blocks, householders in the East End have also been repairing shattered windows and burst pipes. Most residents lived in flats owned by Tower Hamlets council, and so will be covered by the council for any structural damage. But only those who had taken out contents insurance separately will be able to claim for any internal damage to possessions or water pipes.

All household policies for bricks-and-mortar and personal possessions insurance pay out for damage caused by terrorist attacks, riots, civil commotion, strikes and labour or political disturbances. Those whose homes were damaged in the Brixton riots in London and the St Pauls, Bristol, and Moss Side, Manchester, riots would therefore have been covered if they had an appropriate policy.

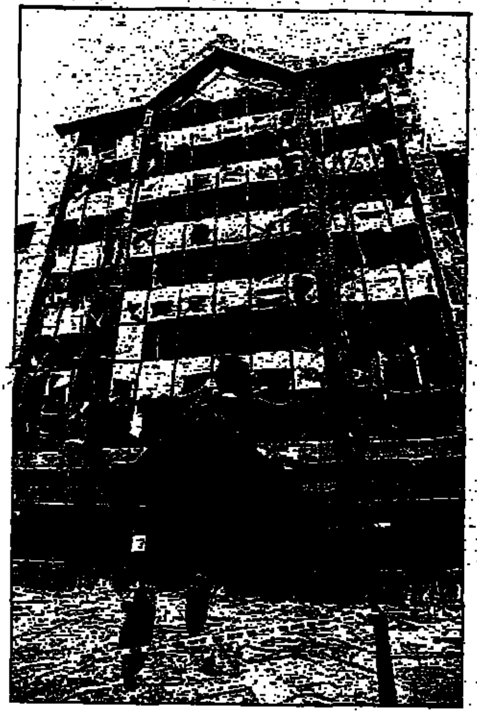
The principal exclusions are war and radioactive contamination. The Association of British Insurers says this means ordinary policies will not cover seepage from nuclear waste dumped or buried near your home. Neither will you be covered for risks which seem distant now, but would have been frighteningly real in the 1940s: those of civil war, rebellion, insurrection or a military coup. With regard to radiation, farmers whose livestock was contaminated by the fallout from the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor in April 1986 were compensated by the British Government.

If your car is blown up in a terrorist attack you will be covered if you have comprehensive insurance, but not if you have just third party cover. Most insurers will agree to pay out if you have third party fire and theft cover, although some might argue that a bomb blast was not the same as a fire. However, the ABI says it knows of no disputes between insurers and motorists on such an issue.

If you are injured in a blast and have no personal accident cover or life insurance protection, your only hope of compensation is through the criminal injuries compensation board. Some life policies pay off the mortgage and compensate you or your dependants for any loss of earnings you may incur through death or injury.

As for the policeman who spotted the lorry carrying the bomb and was almost hit by a car flung across the road by the force of the blast, the ABI says he would have been unable to claim against the driver of the car, had he collided with it, because the driver was not responsible for the direction the vehicle was travelling in.

An ABI spokesman said: "Such incidents emphasise the need for people with dependants or with financial commitments to take out some sort of cover in case an accident renders them unable to work."


The aftermath of the Docklands bomb

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Free policy is no accident

Royal Bank of Scotland customers have been treated to a mailshot offering them £1,000 of complimentary accident protection — and the option to buy more cover at "especially economical premium rates".

Several banks have used this gimmick to let their customers know that they do insurance as well as banking.

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Additional cover ranges from £2.85 a month for £20,000 benefit to £8.55 for £60,000. The mailing makes much of the fact that there is no medical examination.

While it is always important to make sure your dependants are provided for should you die, there may be better ways of spending your money.

Penny O'Nions, a financial adviser based in Amersham, says: "The premiums are certainly reasonable, but then the likelihood of an accidental death is relatively small, even on the bank's own figures. You are far more likely to die of a heart attack, or be maimed by an accident, still alive, but in a wheelchair. So look at life insurance with accelerated benefits and at critical illness insurance."

The younger you are, the cheaper cover. A 35-year-old woman can get life assurance that gives £25,000 benefit for as little as £5 a month. Critical illness, which pays out if you suffer a serious illness or disability, will cost another £8 a month.

Jane Goodwin, for the Royal Bank of Scotland, says: "The offer is really a freebie. There are no strings attached. Customers do not have to pay anything for the first £1,000 of cover."

Marks out of ten for the mailing? Ms O'Nions says: "No more than four out of ten. It's simply not something I would suggest to my clients because it's unlikely to happen to them."

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Will small investors get fair shares under Crest?

Dealing rules are changing. **Marianne Curphey** looks at what it all means

Share certificates will no longer be required for trading under the Crest settlement system

Q What exactly is Crest?

A It is the electronic share dealing system due to come into operation on July 15. It replaces Taurus, the London Stock Exchange's failed project — abandoned in March 1993 after costing the Exchange and the City of London up to £400 million — and Talisman, the current system. It is just about to begin five months of rigorous tests among City market-makers, brokers, institutional investors and banks.

Q Why is it important?

A Under the plan, the Stock Exchange will no longer be the main provider of settlement services in London. It is currently responsible for all share dealings, which involve the physical movement of share certificates.

Q How will it affect me?

A The present Talisman system in effect allows large institutional investors — the giant pension fund managers — to subsidise the dealings of small investors. Private client stockbrokers have protested that every deal of £4,000 or less will be more expensive under the new Crest system.

The Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers argues that 62 per cent of all private client deals are for shares worth £4,000 or less.

Crest will not require investors to abandon share certificates, but those deals that are done using certificates, and smaller deals, will face the biggest increase in charges. For deals under £1,000, the charge to brokers is likely to increase from 75p to between £2 and £4. The basic tariff will not change, which means that it will be cheaper for institutions to use the new system.

Q So how will the charges work?

A One fee will be charged for each transaction. Mark Kirby, of CrestCo, the company set up to design and build Crest, says that because the cost of settlement through Crest is identical, whatever the value of shares traded the tariff will be more or less the same. Small shareholders with nominee accounts may find their broker absorbs the cost of the transaction, although brokers will still charge their normal dealing fee. Investors will also have to pay a fee to a network provider to send and retrieve electronic messages through Crest.

Q So the small investor gets a bad deal?

A ProShare, an organisation which lobbies for wider share ownership, says the system will force more private investors to hold shares in nominee accounts — ie, the broker holds the shares in the name of the investor. It says this is because by shortening the settlement period it will become impossible to continue trading in actual share certificates.

ProShare is also concerned that small investors will miss out on the annual reports sent out by the company to shareholders, and that some brokers will charge for collecting dividends and will not pass on perks such as free airline travel or discounted goods. In addition, the broker is legally the owner of the shares, which means that if the broking firm folds, it may be difficult for you to claim your shares. However, if you invest in warrants, which are a type of derivative that behave in a more volatile way than shares, you will not be entitled to dividends anyway.

A spokeswoman for ProShare called for information about the Crest charges to be made public as soon as possible. "You can put your own name on the Crest register, which will cost £20 a year, but it has to be registered through a broker and so far we have been given no indication of how much a broker would charge for that service."

Q How has it been developed?

A Crest has been the brainchild of the Bank of England and is designed to allow share transactions to be settled within three days.

Q Why is it being introduced?

A Crest is designed to minimise the risk in the settlement system by cutting the number of days between giving an order to buy or sell shares, and the receipt of the shares or payment for them.

Q What can individual shareholders do?

A Because ProShare believes more small investors will feel obliged to hold shares in nominee accounts, it has launched a code of practice for nominee operators, with the support of the Stock Exchange, the Securities and Futures Authority, brokers and the Bank of England. The code requires a full and clear disclosure of all charges for services; clear disclosure of the way in which investors' assets held in nominee accounts are protected; and for nominees to give investors the chance to receive company information and to exercise as many of the legal rights of shareholders as possible.

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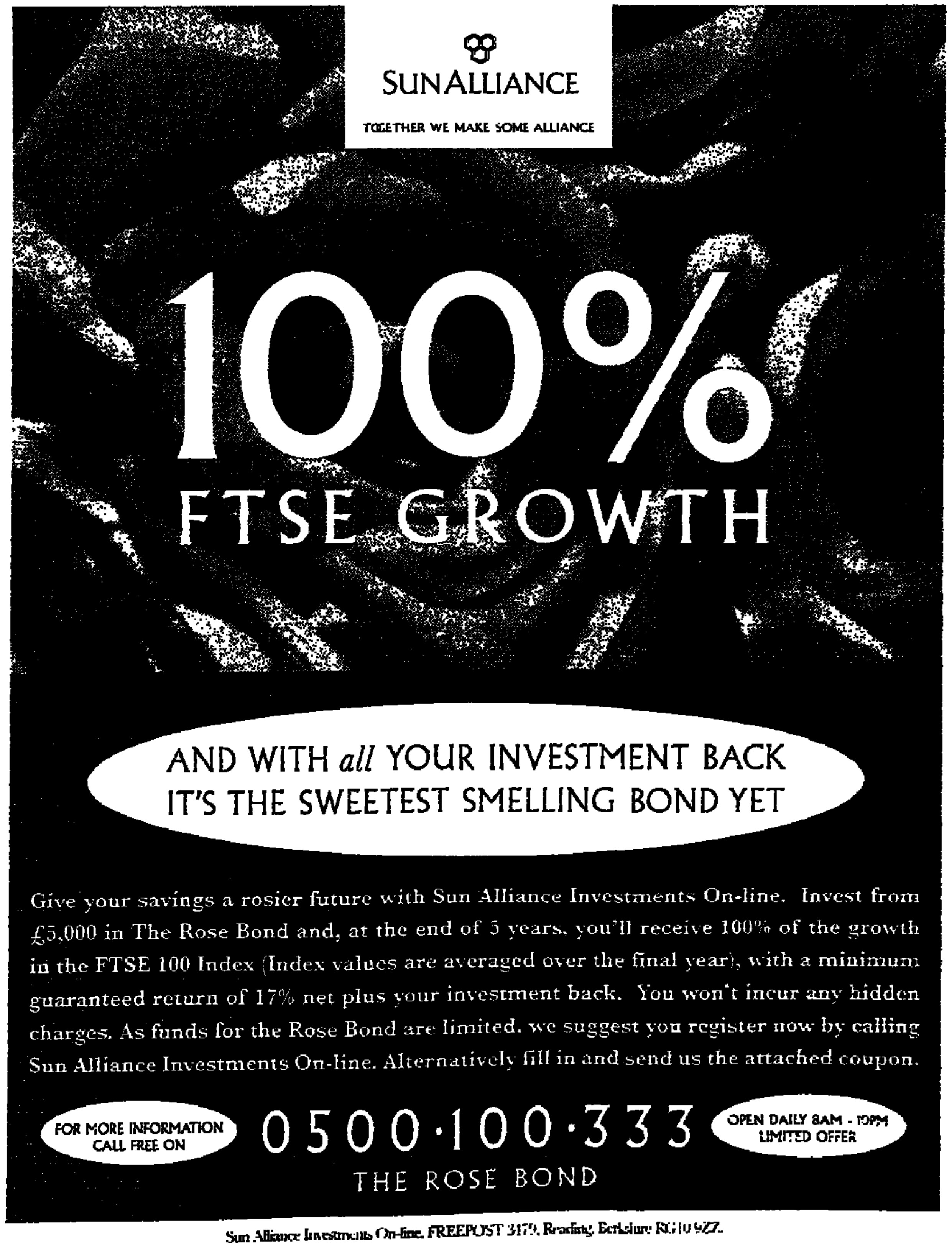

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Sara McConnell looks at the winding-up threat faced by the controversial Union Finance

Unhappy client may close debt advice firm

Union Finance, the controversial Southend debt counsellor, is threatened with closure, leaving thousands of borrowers who sought advice about negative equity hundreds of pounds out of pocket. Borrowers who followed Union Finance's advice that they could not be chased for outstanding debts if they handed their keys back may now be pursued for repayment by lenders.

Ever since *The Times* first revealed the activities of Union Finance in August 1994, the firm's claims have been viewed with increasing concern by lenders and housing advisers.

Union Finance promised to free borrowers from their negative equity by exploiting a loophole in mortgage indemnity policies taken out to cover the loan. It claimed that borrowers could not be chased for any shortfall if they handed their keys back to their lender because the mortgage indemnity policy covered the borrower rather than the lender. It charged borrowers £350 for this advice. Lenders said the advice was wrong and that they would pursue borrowers for up to 12 years. Recent court rulings on mortgage indemnity policies have agreed with the lenders.

Now, unless Union Finance pays an £8,000 legal bill incurred by one of its former clients by the beginning of next month, it will be wound up. An official winding-up notice was published in *The London Gazette* on Wednesday, after the Chancery Division of the High Court in Birmingham refused Union Finance's application to have a winding-up petition overturned.

The petition was served by James Barnett, a borrower with the Bradford & Bingley Building Society and a former client of Union Finance. Mr Barnett was taken to court last July by the Bradford & Bingley, owing more than £55,000. He lost his case that he was protected by the mortgage indemnity policy, and incurred £8,000 legal costs, which Union Finance had previously pledged to pay. Union Finance is now refusing to pay them. Mr Barnett, supported by the Bradford & Bingley, served a winding-up petition.

The Bradford & Bingley said it had wanted to have Union Finance's claims tested in court. Andy Hillier, the society's senior manager, loss recovery, said: "There was real concern about Union Finance. But the problem was having the matter tested. Borrowers were grasping at straws [taking Union Finance's advice] and lenders were caught between a rock and a hard place because Union Finance refused to let borrowers talk to lenders."

Bradford & Bingley was the first lender to challenge Union Finance successfully in the county court. Lenders had previously maintained that they were powerless to act unless one of them went to court. Just before Christmas, the Woolwich Building Society secured a ruling in the High Court rejecting Union Finance's claims, although the case did not concern a Union Finance client. Mark Aysnford, managing director of Union Finance, said this week: "We are waiting to see what's going to happen. It doesn't look good. We've paid out a staggering amount in legal fees."

Mr Aysnford maintained that the firm could afford to pay £8,000, but would almost certainly not do so because this would open the way to "five, six, seven or more other borrowers" to make similar claims that would bring down the firm in the long term.

He insisted that Union Finance was right in its interpretation of mortgage indemnity insurance, in spite of judgments to the contrary, but said: "We have gone down another way. If we go down, we will go down fighting."

Where are the 300 successful clients?

Cover adds up at Union Finance

How *The Times* reported on Union Finance, John Sheppard, left, and Peter Walker

The claim to answer prayers of negative equity victims

It was August 1994 and more than one million people, the majority in London and the South East, were trapped in homes worth less than the value of the mortgage. Many had growing families, but could not sell the small one- or two-bedroom starter homes they had bought at the peak of the 1980s housing boom. In spite of having thousands of pounds of negative equity, however, most were not in arrears with their mortgages. They were just desperate to find a way to move and continue their lives.

Union Finance's promise seemed like an answer to their prayers. The firm's founder and chairman, Peter Walker, claimed to have found a loophole in the mortgage indemnity policies most negative equity victims had had to pay for when they took out loans. Lenders insist that anyone taking out a loan for more than 75 per cent of the property's value takes out a mortgage indemnity guarantee (MIG). The borrower pays, but the policy covers the lender in case it has to repossess and sell at a shortfall. Most of the borrowers suffering negative equity had 95 or even 100 per cent loans, which had compounded their problems. But Mr Walker said sloppy wording on many MIG policies before 1992 meant that they covered the borrower not the lender. It followed, argued Mr Walker and his colleague John Sheppard, that an insurer paying out to a lender cannot then turn and chase the borrower for money it has paid on the borrower's behalf. So all borrowers had to do was hand in their keys and walk away as they could not be chased for their debts.

The firm was besieged with desperate borrowers in spite of hostile press coverage from *The Times* and elsewhere. But what Union Finance glossed over was that its claims had never been tested in court. Lenders said they could and would pursue people who handed in keys and pointed out that they had 12 years to do so. But they appeared powerless to stop Union Finance, which was regulated under the Consumer Credit Act and was not doing anything illegal. Increasing numbers of borrowers handed in keys. Lenders all privately decried Union Finance's activities but no one was prepared to challenge the firm publicly and take a borrower advised by Union Finance to court, until the Bradford & Bingley broke ranks last summer.

Union Finance remains defiant in the face of collapse. But long after it has gone, borrowers who handed in keys on Union Finance's advice will still have to live with the dread of the lender's knock at the door.

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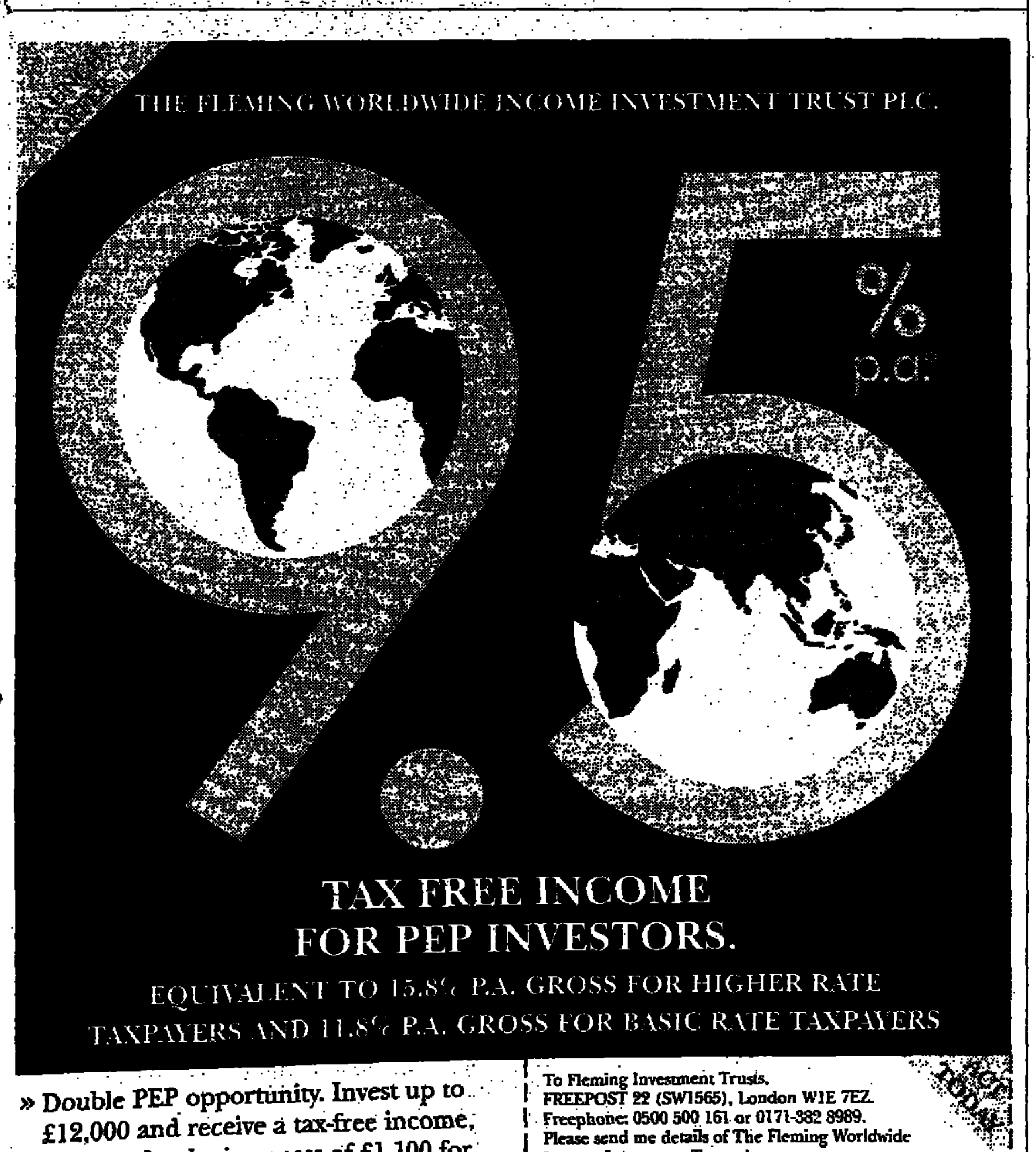

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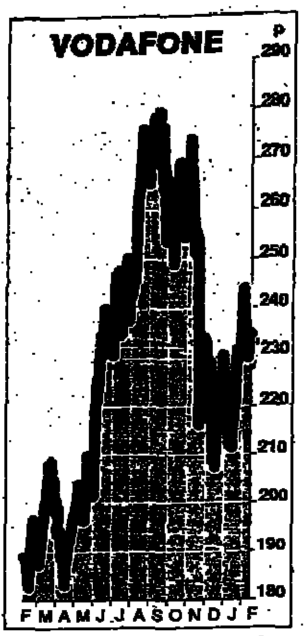
Orange prepares for market

Take a long view if backing this phone firm, says Karen Zagor



Ripe for investment: Orange should prove a good bet for long-term capital growth

Should small investors back Orange, the mobile phone company, when it floats next month?

Orange customers will soon receive booklets on the flotation: customers can register interest in becoming investors by returning a reply slip. They will not, however, receive incentives to buy shares. An Orange spokesman said: "We didn't want to distort a long-term investment decision with short-term incentives."

A pathfinder prospectus should be published in early March, with flotation by the end of the month.

Analysts believe that Orange is a good bet. Orange, owned by British Aereospace and Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong, is expanding rapidly and there is little reason to expect a reversal of fortune.

Jo Oliver, telecommunications analyst with NatWest Stockbrokers, says: "We're advising people to take up the offer. We believe it could be very rewarding."

There are, of course, risks involved. Share prices are subject to market forces as well as the company's own performance. There is also the danger that Orange's profitability could be damaged by a price war, especially if low-cost provider Mercury One-2-One expands more quickly than anticpated. Cellnet and Vodafone, the two biggest UK players, are already cutting prices and may introduce more dramatic reductions if Orange threatens to take more of their customer base.

"There is also the risk that the industry will not grow as people are forecasting, or that competitors will come back with a very strong product," says Mr Oliver. "But there is nothing to indicate that this will happen in the short term."

Analysts are bullish on Orange because the telecommunications industry as a whole promises strong growth in Britain in the next decade, and Orange itself is excelling.

In less than two years, Orange has won 25 per cent of the digital phone market, and its customer base keeps growing. Its February figures show 410,000 customers, against 400,000 for Vodafone in December. Vodafone does not have more up-to-date figures but says it still leads the digital market.

Orange's share of the total UK cellular phone market is a more modest 7 per cent. Vodafone and Cellnet, which each have a 43 per cent share of the total market because of their huge analogue customer base, still dominate. Analogue, however, is already considered obsolete. Digital connections are clearer, more reliable, more secure and far more effective in transmitting data.

Orange's digital-only network gives it a strong advantage. While competitors such as Cellnet and Vodafone are now trying to shift their business from analogue to digital, Orange can concentrate on expanding its existing operations.

Unlike Mercury One-2-One, the other newcomer, which has concentrated on building custom within the M25, Orange's strategy has been to expand rapidly through the country. Its network now covers about 90 per cent of mainland Britain, although it is not yet in Ireland or on the Continent. Now that Orange's range is above 80 per cent, it plans to target the lucrative corporate market.

Orange has won customers by offering competitive prices and a comprehensive package, including fully itemised bills, three-year warranties and 24-hour replacement phones.

Of the three other mobile phone companies, only Vodafone is quoted. Cellnet is controlled by British Telecommunications and Securicor, and Mercury One-2-One is owned by Cable and Wireless and US West, the American regional phone group.

Vodafone's shareholders have done well since it was floated. The share price has more than doubled since the company became fully independent in 1991. Vodafone's annual disconnection (or churn) rate is improving from a peak of 28 per cent in 1994-95, but, at 24.9 per cent, is still high. Orange's churn was 18 per cent in 1995, falling to 16 per cent in the final quarter.

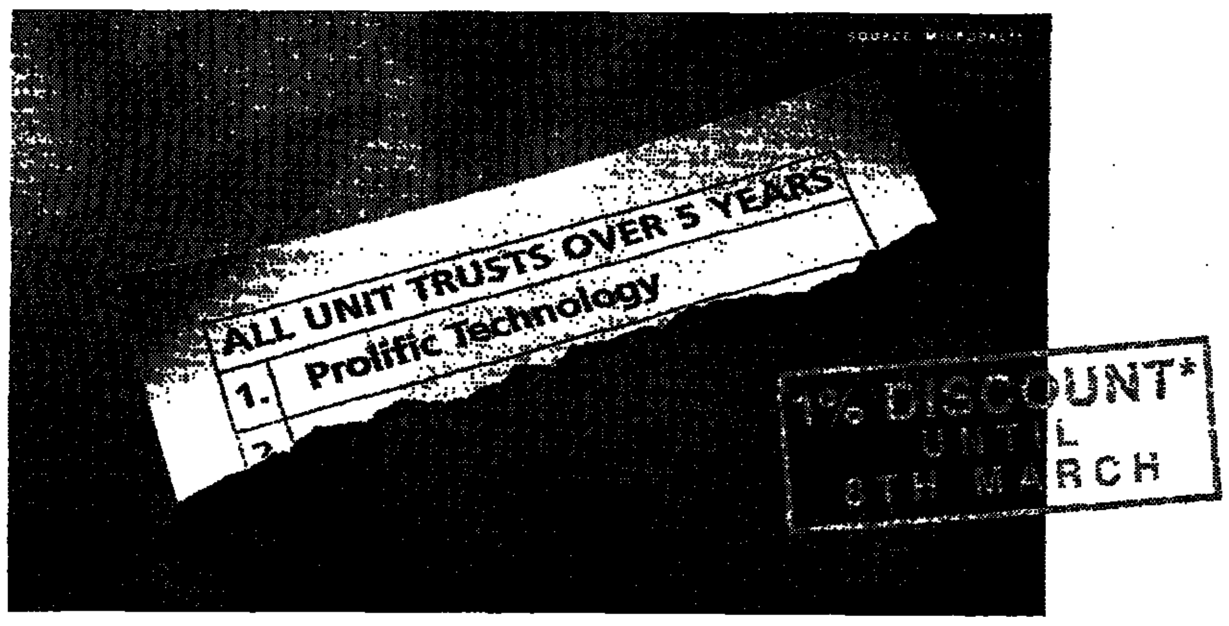
Analysts with ABN-Ambro Hoare Govett attribute the below-average churn to Orange's more expensive handsets making people think before buying. Orange can control its product through direct selling, unlike Cellnet and Vodafone, which were compelled to use service providers when they were set up. Service providers are responsible for their own tariffs and special offers, not the phone company. This may explain inconsistencies in Vodafone and Cellnet rates.

Orange may find itself at a disadvantage if it needs to grow through expanding beyond Britain. Vodafone already has contracts in 36 countries, but Orange has no presence overseas, although it is currently running a trial in Germany.

Overall, potential for growth in the sector is strong. Britain lags Scandinavia and the US in mobile phone use. Only 9.4 per cent of Britons have mobile phones, against 23 per cent of Norwegians and Swedes. By 2000, the UK figure is expected to be 20 per cent.

Although Orange is a suitable investment for those seeking capital growth, it is not for anyone seeking income. Analysts do not expect dividends before 2000, and NatWest Securities says they are unlikely before 2005. Indeed, the company is not expected to post a profit before 1998.

Non-customers can register interest through a stockbroker or through Orange, whose information line is 0973 100 001.



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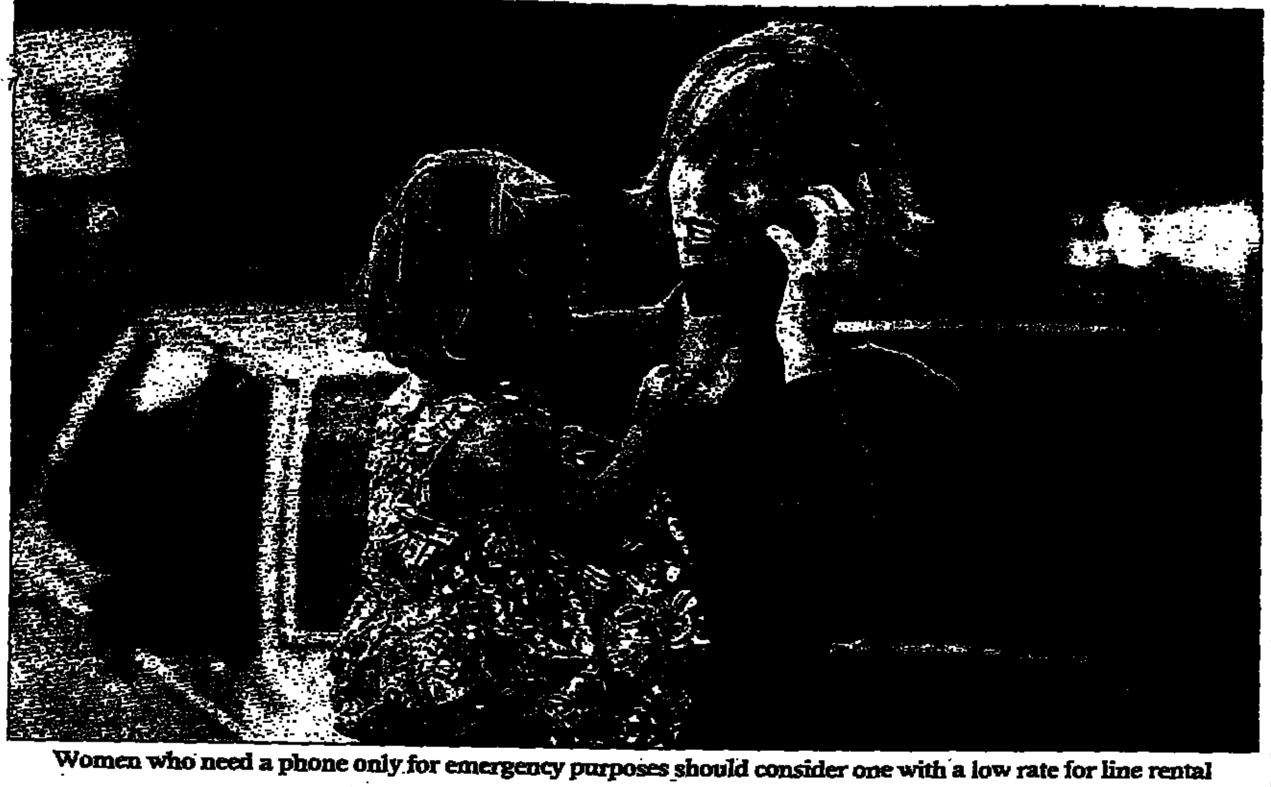
Karen Zagor offers some tips to mobile phone users



Women who need a phone only for emergency purposes should consider one with a low rate for line rental

On call and on the move

Had the Prince of Wales used a modern digital mobile phone for his late night chats with Camilla Parker Bowles instead of an old-fashioned analogue model, their conversation would have been safe from the prying ears of hackers.

Deciding between a digital and analogue model is just one of many dilemmas faced by a mobile phone buyer. There is such a confusing array of tariffs that it would take weeks with an ordinary calculator to work out the best rate.

Rates are changing so rapidly that it is hard to keep track of them. So it is hardly surprising that a Consumers' Association study found that 38 per cent of mobile phone users were unhappy with their tariff packages.

Part of the problem is that, in order to use your phone, you agree to pay a certain tariff for a set amount of time. Unless you accurately predict your phone usage at the outset, you can get locked into an unsuitable arrangement. The minimum initial contract is usually a year, after which you can cancel with 90 days' notice. The minimum contract, therefore, is effectively 15 months.

Another complication is that Cellnet and Vodafone generally use service providers — or middlemen — who have their own complicated array of charges. If you sign up with a service provider, you are the server's customer rather than the phone company's customer.

Ian White, editor of *Mobile News*, says: "When buying a mobile phone, you must do the same amount of research as you would if you were buying a car or a computer. The main cost is the ongoing costs of the calls and the line rental, not the phone itself. You need to think about when, where and how you are going to use the phone. Then go to a specialist high street shop or directly to the network because it is a complicated sale and you need to find someone who will sell you the right phone at the right rate."

■ **Usage:** Peoples Phone has a computer system that asks customers about their phone needs and habits, and selects a system to suit their needs. If you are a woman who only needs a phone for emergency purposes when travelling alone or with children, you want to go for a low line rental rate. Peoples Phone, which provides air time itself, suggests a line rental rate of £11.74 including VAT. Calls are then charged at flat rate of 76p a minute. The choice of phone itself will depend on whether you need a poweful car phone or something small and light enough to slip into a handbag. Phone prices start at 99p. The average price of a decent analogue phone is about £50.

At the other extreme is the digital tariff for the high user. Peoples Phone suggests monthly line rental of £58.75 including VAT, which includes a free call allowance of £25.20. Peak charges are 20p a minute, off-peak are 8p a minute. The phone can be used throughout Europe. Orange charges £50 a month for its Talk 200, which includes 200 minutes of free airtime. Peak charges are 18p a minute, off-peak are 9p a minute.

■ **Clarity:** The quality of mobile connections is improving, and digital connections can be very clear, but it is important to remember that a mobile phone is basically a radio transmitter. "You don't expect your car radio to work in tunnels, so it isn't fair to criticise mobile phones for not working in lifts," says Mr White.

■ **Privacy:** If privacy is paramount, a digital phone is the best choice. The digital technology automatically scrambles the conversation while you speak, making it safer than a land-line, whereas conversations on an analogue phone can be picked up easily.

■ **Counting the minutes:** Orange has always charged calls by the second instead of rounding up to the nearest minute or half-minute, which was the traditional charging pattern for Vodafone and Cellnet. Vodafone and Cellnet have recently cut prices, but the lower rates are only available to a small porportion of customers who have digital phones.

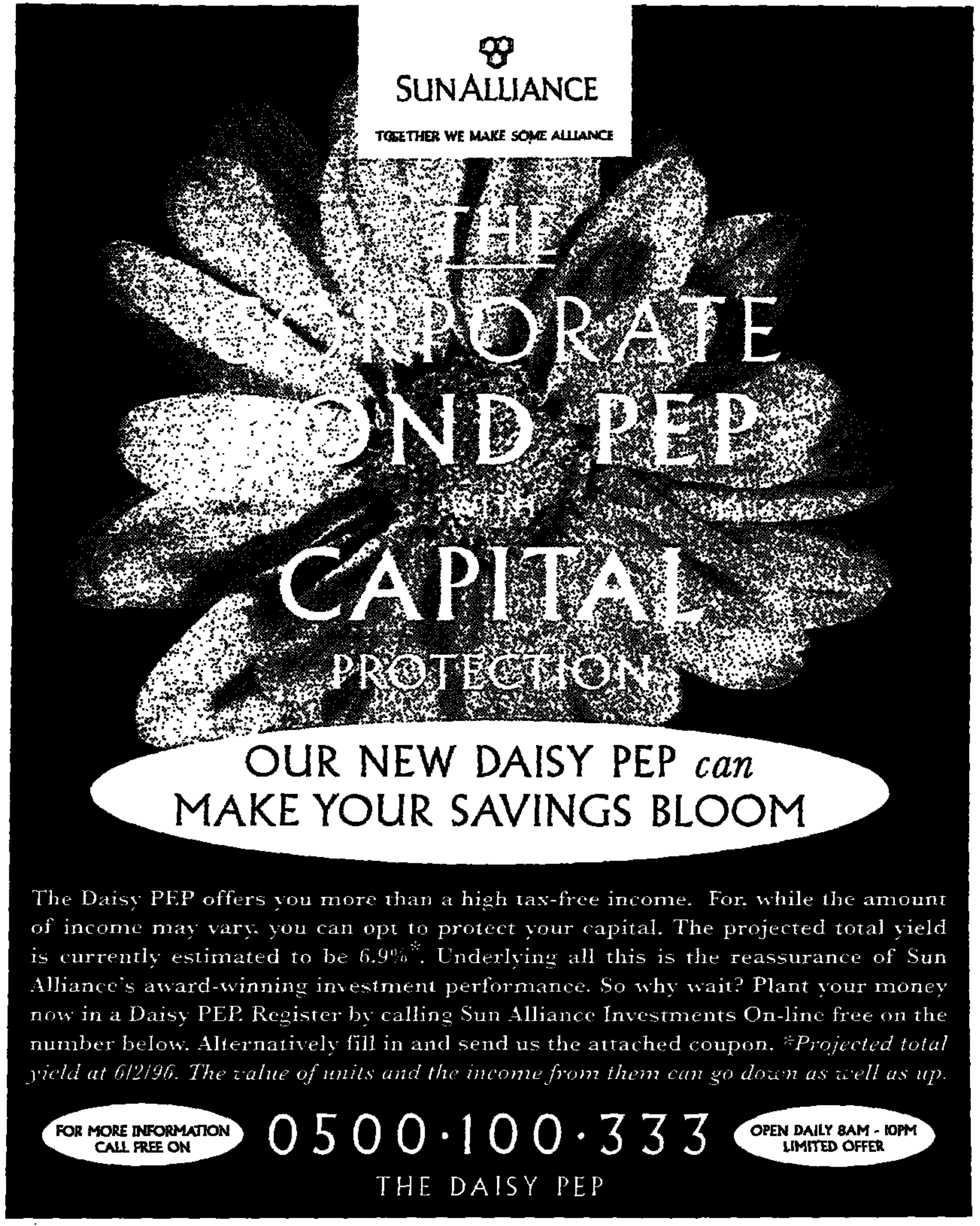
■ **Getting the message:** Messages are another area where charges vary wildly. Vodafone charges 33p to leave and 25p to retrieve a message. Orange charges 7.5p to retrieve messages, while Mercury One-2-One usually charges nothing.

■ **Charging your friends:** It costs 35p a minute to ring a Vodafone or Cellnet number from a fixed line. Orange sets the charges at 14.2p a minute.

■ **Mobility:** If you need a phone for travel, it is no good signing up with a low-cost provider and then discovering that the phone does not work two miles beyond your home. Orange has a good range within the UK, but cannot yet be used abroad. Vodafone, on the other hand, has arrangements in 36 countries. Mercury One-2-One is strong within the M25, but has fairly scant coverage beyond.

■ **Flexibility:** If you are worried that your phone needs might change over a year, look for a flexible provider. Peoples Phone, for example, allows you to switch to a different tariff package while still under contract. Orange allows customers to switch if the original tariff is unsuitable.

For your protection all telephone conversations are recorded. Please bear in mind that the current tax situation could change in the future. Sun Alliance Investments On-line is a trading name of Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, which is registered in England with No 2170242 (Registered Office: 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AX). Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority.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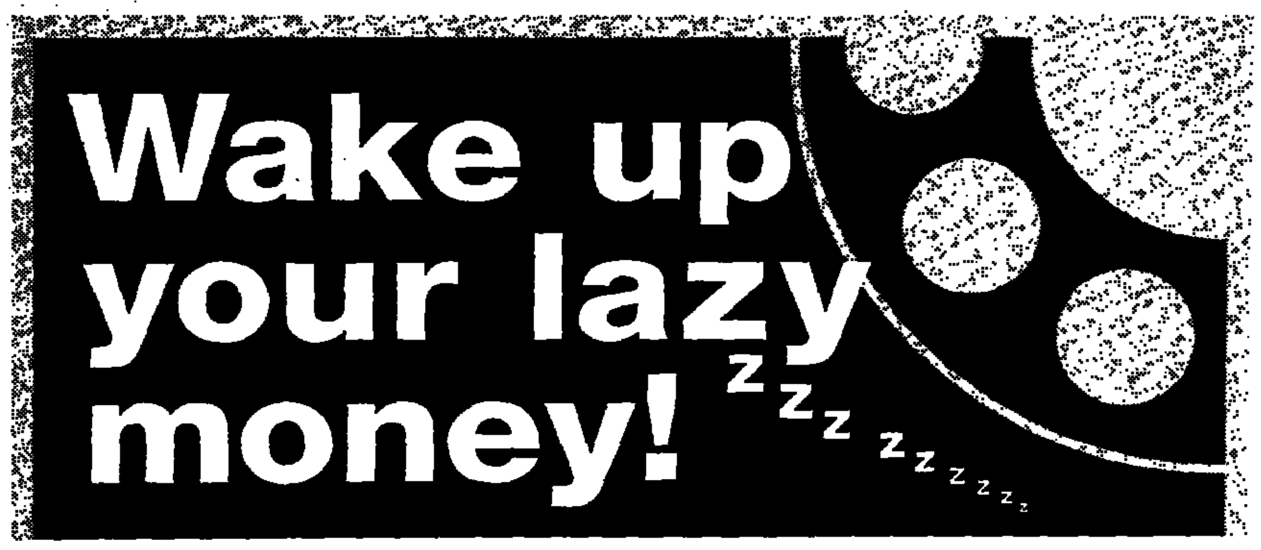
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Halifax	4.5%	3.3%	2.0%
Allied Dunbar Extra Income PEP	7.6%	7.6%	7.6%

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*†Source HSW TESSA Sector Index to 1.1.1996. *Source AITC, share price performance, dividends reinvested to 30.11.1995. **Source BZW, 28.12.1995.*

Service worth saving

Morag Preston says post offices are planning to be the supermarkets of the financial world

Those were the days: there were more post offices but fewer services

When a local bank closes in a high street or a rural community, the Post Office is often the only financial institution left, providing customers with a wide range of services from Girobank to National Savings.

In the UK, there are around 19,400 post offices, each acting as a safe house for customers' finances and a place from which to receive pensions, savings stamps or motor vehicle licences. Only 43 per cent of parishes in England are without a post office, compared with 90 per cent that survive without a bank or building society, according to a survey by the Rural Development Company.

Between 1991 and 1995, however, the number of rural post offices fell by 4 per cent, to about 10,000. On Valentine's Day last year, the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) called on the Government to halt the closure of rural sub-post offices, which it said were an "essential life-line" for millions of people.

Of the CAB clients surveyed, 70 per cent were receiving state benefit, more than one third were without a car, and a quarter did not have a bank account. Almost half of those questioned said they paid at least one of their household bills at their local post office.

Last year, Girobank, which is owned by the Alliance & Leicester Building Society, processed 7.5 million transactions weekly and handled more than £64 billion of business takings, equivalent to £1 in every £4 that passed through a UK till. Girobank is unique among UK clearing banks in having direct links with 16 countries in the international Giro network, including most of Western Europe, Scandinavia and Japan.

As well as providing Giro cheques on behalf of the Benefits Agency, its business services include Transcash, used for collecting mail order, rent, gas, and electricity payments.

Girobank Keyway, an interest-bearing current account, offers 0.5 per cent gross on deposits of more than £1, rising to 0.75 per cent on more than £2,000 and 1 per cent on £5,000 plus. The interest rate on Linksave, the plastic card-based account, is 0.35 per cent gross on between £1 and £499, 0.85 per cent on £500-£1,999, and 2.10 per cent on £2,000 plus.

Overdrafts with the Girobank Current Account are charged monthly at 0.99 per cent net if they are authorised, and 2.2 per cent if they are unauthorised.

There are around 1.2 million Alliance & Leicester Giro customers. They do not count as members of the society, so will not benefit from the free shares to be distributed at flotation, unless they also hold Alliance & Leicester qualifying share accounts or mortgages.

Treasury-backed National Savings are another popular service available at the post office. By March last year, 14 million deposits and nine million withdrawals had been made through National Savings, which offer a wide range of services, including Capital Bonds, Pensioner Bonds, Children's Bonds and Income Bonds. Basic National Savings certificates pay 5.35 per cent tax-free, and are guaranteed if held for five years.

Ordinary accounts start at £10, and go up to £10,000. Investors have instant access, and the first £70 of annual interest is tax-free. The interest rate is 1.75 per cent gross on less than £500 and 2.75 per cent gross on sums greater than that if the account has been open for longer than a calendar year. Investment accounts start at £20 and go up to £100,000. The taxable interest rate is 5 per cent gross on less than £500, 5.5 per cent on £500 plus, and 5.75 per cent on £25,000 or more. The rates change according to the base rate.

The Post Office is also becoming a leading player in the travel market, offering certain foreign exchange facilities from its "one-stop holiday shops" since last year. Around 3,000 post offices sell travel insurance, including 600 larger outlets that provide a full range of on-demand bureau de change facilities at a lower rate than that offered by most high street banks. Customers can use their credit cards to pay for foreign currency and travellers' cheques, in addition to being able to order currency from smaller offices. Ten-year passports can also be ordered through main branches. The agreement to give Post Office Counters greater freedom follows the Government decision to abandon the privatisation of Royal Mail and Parcel Force. It enables the Post Office, through 4,000 branches, to act as one of the biggest sellers of National Lottery tickets.

Over the next few years, the Post Office will install computer terminals to link its network, with the aim of £150 million from new business before the year 2000. By then, customers could be popping into their local branch to cash in money-off coupons, access mobile telephone services, pay for travel and theatre tickets and even motorway tolls and parking schemes, says the Post Office.

Has your TESSA matured? Whatever next?

Around 2 million people invested in a TESSA early in 1991. If you're one of them, congratulations. You may have already received – or be about to receive – an attractive tax-free payout.

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But just stop and think. Things have changed since 1991. Interest rates, for example, are currently far lower – with no short-term prospect of an increase. Different kinds of tax-free investments, such as PEPs, have been introduced and developed. And in any event, changes in your own circumstances and outlook could mean that a new TESSA may not be the ideal choice for you. But even then, you'll need to decide how best to use the tax-free interest you have accumulated, since you may re-invest your capital in a new TESSA.

So what really is best for you?

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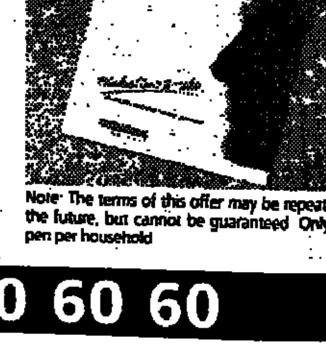

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Robert Miller examines Micropal's survey of 140 trusts launched last year

How the newcomers performed

New Pep plans and babies abound in the spring

The prospect of an early cut in interest rates, after the Bank of England signalled on Wednesday that the Government was back on course to meet its inflation target, is good news for unit trust managers.

Savers, who outnumber Britain's ten million mortgage borrowers by five-to-one, will have to consider seriously whether they can get a better return for their money, either in capital or income terms, elsewhere. Unit and investment trusts offer the most suitable exposure to equities because they provide a spread of risk. That does not mean, however, that they eliminate it.

New unit trust launches generally abound at this time of year, with the run up to the end of the tax year on April 5 being linked with making the most of your annual £6,000 personal equity plan (Pep) allowance.

This year, there is even more to play for with the extra billions of pounds in profits from matured Tessas to be reinvested. But about now, investors, many of them first-timers, who helped to push the value of funds under management in unit trusts last year through the £100 billion barrier and swell the number of unitholder accounts to nearly seven million, will be wanting to know how their money is faring.

In a special survey for Weekend Money, Micropal has tracked the fortunes of last year's 140 new trusts. On the basis that most unit trust investments should be embarked on with at least a three-year time view, it is unfair to read too much into a relatively poor performance at the outset. There is also the inevitable charging handicap to overcome, although some trusts now carry no front-end load. And it could be that the particular stock markets or geographic regions you have chosen had a rough time. Nevertheless, the minimum performance yardstick by which you can measure your trust at any time is whether it is at least matching and preferably beating similar trusts.

By far and away the most popular type of trust to be launched last year was UK gilt and fixed-interest funds, boosted by the debut of the new-style corporate bond Peps. Of the 36 newcomers, only Fleming's two Select bond trusts have produced consistent profits since launch. But a number of others have beaten their sector average, or, as has been the case so far this year, limited the loss. Those that have matched or beaten the generally accepted performance benchmarks include Clerical Medical's Extra Income, Virgin's Income, Scottish Amicable's Corporate Bond, Murray Corporate Bond, Hill Samuel's Managed Extra Income, Allied Dunbar's Extra Income and Cazenove's High Income Portfolio.

In the UK Equity Growth stable, the star among the 13 new trusts is Halifax's Growth trust which in the year to February 1 is up 23 per cent, against an average sector profit of £20 for every £100 invested. In all cases charges have been taken into account. Also showing a steady profit since launch is Marks & Spencer's UK 100 Companies trust, which has made up for periods of not quite matching the sector average by showing a 1 per cent profit so far this year against an average loss of more than 3 per cent for other trusts.

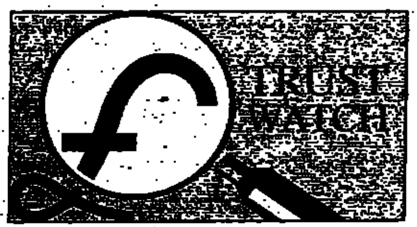
Richard Branson's Virgin again showed a credible performance with its UK Index Tracker trust in the UK Growth and Income sector. It is up more than 18 per cent since May last year and is closely followed by Baillie Gifford's British 350 trust. In the UK Equity Income category, Halifax Income is up 23 per cent since May last year.

Those investors who went for a double-risk averse strategy by investing in unit trusts that in turn invest in investment trusts will have been disappointed. Neither Abtrust's Fund of Investment Trusts nor Dunedin's Innovations have even matched the sector average for similar trusts. Abtrust, for example, is up 3.73 per cent since May against an average performance of 10 per cent.

On the International Equity Growth side, Abbey's Global Opportunities was the star performer, with profits over every period measured since May 1. The managers most pleased with themselves will be those who went for North America. The four new trusts from Fleming (2), Schroder and Jupiter have not only all been in profit since launch but they have also managed to more or less match the sector average and in some periods actually beat it.

The Far East, excluding Japan, also produced some handy profits. Among the seven newcomers last year, the stars were Friends Provident's Asian Growth and Britannia's Pacific Growth trusts. Emerging Markets, once a favourite theme for new launches, produced only three trusts, from Abbey, Hill Samuel and again Fleming. All three have comfortably outperformed similar existing trusts.

Plenty of variety on offer to investors



The latest batch of new trust launches offers plenty of variety for investors. Leading the parade is Fleming (0500 500 161), the UK's largest investment trust manager, with a Worldwide Income investment trust in which investors can use their £6,000 personal equity plan allowance for the current tax year and then again for the next year after April 6.

The Fleming trust will have a split-capital structure with two share classes — Ordinary Income and Zero Dividend Preference or a package of the two in a unit. Up to 60 per cent of the trust will be invested in UK equities, up to 30 per cent in high-yielding bonds, principally emerging market debt, and the remainder in international shares. Also on the investment trust income theme is a new Pep linked to the High Income trust run by Abtrust (0800 136 734) and a similar Pep tie-up from Exeter's High Income unit trust (01392 412144).

On a different tack, Guinness Flight (0345 564564) has launched a Dublin-based China fund, a sub-fund of the group's Select umbrella fund. The Guinness Flight newcomer will be managed by Nerissa Lee from Hong Kong.

Hill Samuel (0800 336600) is offering its first investment trust based on UK Emerging Companies, with a market capitalisation of less than £100 million.

After a slow start, the number of groups launching new-style Venture Capital Trusts, which offer Pep-type tax breaks for investments held for five years, has increased quite dramatically. Among the latest to join the VCT club are Close Brothers (0171-426 4000); Gartmore (0800 212 433) and Hodgson Martin (0131 226 7644).

ROBERT MILLER AND
JENNI PATTISON

Planning for retirement? Who can you trust with your money?

A retirement lump sum is often the biggest single amount of money people ever have to invest. It is vital for everyone in these circumstances to shop around before entrusting an adviser with their money. Mistakes can easily be made and the time to recover from making the wrong choice is limited, as many older investors have learned to their cost.

In Carr Sheppards' view, what people need in order to start sensible financial planning for retirement is impartial professional advice. As long-established private client stockbrokers, with some £2 billion of individuals' capital entrusted to our care, we are well qualified to help you. Our long experience is encapsulated in our booklet 'Enjoying Life After Work', and many people who have read it have found it most helpful.

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◆ EDINBURGH FUND MANAGERS ◆

Two of Scotland's largest fund managers Edinburgh and DUNEDIN announce their intention to join forces.

Edinburgh Fund Managers Group plc and DFM Holdings Limited (Dunedin) have announced their intention to merge.* The new group will have over £8 billion under management and will include one of the UK's largest investment trust managers.

The enlarged group will continue to offer the highest standards of service and management to all clients.

The award winning expertise of both groups are at the disposal of all existing and future investors.

For further information please call the *Edinburgh* helpline.

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AWARDS

EDINBURGH FUND MANAGERS

- Money Observer Investment Trust Premier Group Award 1994 and 1995 ①
- Micropal Larger Investment Trust Group Over 5 Years 1994 ②
- Edinburgh UK Smaller Companies Fund, Micropal 10 Year Unit Trust Award, 1992, 1993 and 1994 ②

DUNEDIN FUND MANAGERS

- Dunedin Enterprise Investment Trust plc, 1st place, Five Years Investment Trust, Venture and Development Capital Sector, Micropal Awards 1994 ③
- Dunedin Enterprise Investment Trust plc, Most Improved Investment Trust Share of the Year, What Investment 1995 ④

Edinburgh
FUND MANAGERS PLC

Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD.

*The merger is subject to certain conditions being met including regulatory and shareholder approval.

This advertisement is issued jointly by Edinburgh Fund Managers plc and Dunedin Fund Managers Limited which are regulated by IMRO and Edinburgh Unit Trust Managers Limited, regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Stockmarkets and currency movements may cause the value of investments and the income from them to fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount they originally invested. ①Awarded to Edinburgh Fund Managers plc. ②Awarded to Edinburgh Unit Trust Managers Limited. 2nd out of 53 over 5 years to 31/12/95, buying to selling price, income reinvested, source Micropal. ③Awarded to Dunedin Fund Managers Limited. ④Awarded to Dunedin Enterprise Investment Trust plc.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Peps put into the spotlight

The Association of Investment Trust Companies, representing the interests of the investment trust industry, has updated and reissued three of its factsheets. *Investment Trust PEPs* looks at the different types of personal equity plans available and explains the rules relating to investment trust Peps. The factsheet identifies the benefit in combining an investment trust, offering long-term performance and spread of risk, with a tax-free Pep. Although investment trusts for children may not seem an automatic choice, *Investing for Children* reveals their inherent advantages, including the absence of a front-end commission when carrying out the initial purchase. *Planning for School Fees* highlights the tax efficiency and flexibility of investment trusts over with-profits endowment policies when saving for education. These factsheets are available free from AITC on 0171 4315222.

■ Killik & Co, the stockbroker, has produced a five-page guide to understanding Peps. The guide answers the questions most frequently asked by investors and explains in particular the benefits of unrestricted (self-select) Peps versus "restricted" general and single company Peps. Questions answered include: "What does it cost to open a Pep?" and "Can more than one single company Pep be merged into one Pep?". A thousand copies of *A Guide to Understanding PEPs* are available. Contact Killik & Co on 0171 4614400.

■ More than 90 per cent of road accident and work related personal injury claims are successful, according to the The Solicitors Trust, a national network of local solicitors that has produced the second in a series of factsheets on legal topics. *15 Facts you Need to Know about Personal Injury* includes claiming against medical negligence and compensation for victims of crime. Call 0990 112232.

■ Halifax Building Society has introduced new interest rates on its range of savings accounts. The new rate for a Liquid Gold accountholder with £10,000 in his or her account is 3.60 per cent, compared with a previous return of 3.75 per cent. For a Bonus Gold saver with £10,000, the rate is now 5.25 per cent.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 01202 292444	*Instant Acc*	*Instant*	*£100*	*4.80*	*Yly*
West Bromwich BS 0345 374121	Dir Instant	Postal	£2,000	6.00	A/Yly
West Bromwich BS 0345 374121	Dir Instant	Postal	£25,000	6.25	A/Yly
West Bromwich BS 0345 374121	Dir Instant	Postal	£50,000	6.50	A/Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Cheltenham & Glouc 0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day p	£1,000	6.50	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day p	£10,000	6.75	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day p	£25,000	7.10	Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0116 271 7272	Prime 90 Depos	90 day	£100,000	7.20	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	*Account*	Notice of term	*Deposit*	*Rate*	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 year	£9,000	7.30	F/Yly
Allied Trust Bank 0171 6260879		5 year	£9,000	7.25	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505		5 year	£3,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£25	7.25	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.94%G	12.10%	Nil C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	*MasterCard/Visa*	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C

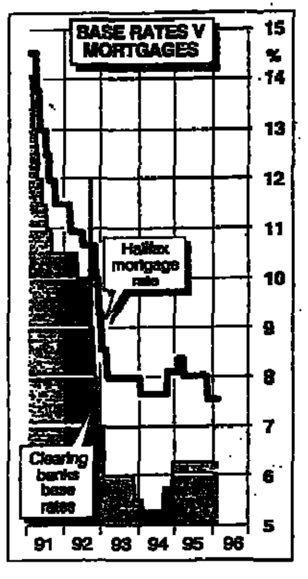
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

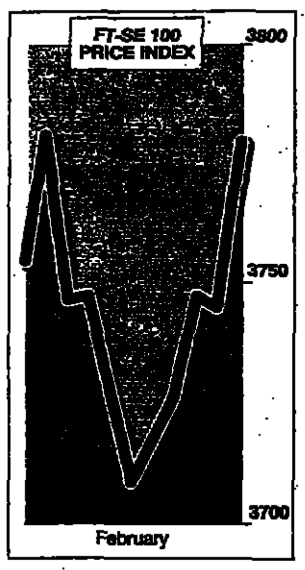
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489966	14.90%E	£114.41	£102.59
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
Abbey National 0345 545556	15.50%	£115.18	£103.26

Nb. A = 2% bonus if Account opened by 30.4.96, C = no interest free period, D = For debt consolidation only, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate 5% above R Flemning base rate. OM denotes interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* ²	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500**	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* ²	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond²	6.25	4.68	3.75	1,000-20,000**		01416362558
43rd Issue Cert†²	5.35			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond² ²	6.65	4.98	3.99	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
*9th Index Linked†²	2.50*			*100-10,000*	*8day*	*01913864900*
Pensnrs Bond S3 ²	7.00	5.25	4.20	500-50,000²	60day	01253766151

*¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ²Guaranteed when held for 5 years ²0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ²£40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings² Taxable but cred in full.*
***Tiered rates apply.*

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Stalwart * ....Level	£10,128	£11,153	£12,297
Canada Lfe ....Level	£9,915	£11,067	£12,675
Prudential ....Level	£10,012	£11,038	£12,418
Standard Lfe ....Level	£9,956	£11,024	£12,416
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£9,972	£11,016	£12,442

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,251	£9,993	£11,078
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£9,230	£9,970	£11,063
Royal Life ....Level	£9,119	£9,957	£11,189
Stalwart * ....Level	£9,095	£9,928	£10,992
Cananda Life..........Level	£9,083	£9,827	£11,161

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£8,856	£9,435	£10,244
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£8,855	£9,429	£10,249
Canada Life ....Level	£8,686	£9,329	£10,266
General Accident Level	£8,705	£9,313	£10,175
MGM Assurance ..Level	£8,678	£9,303	£10,190
Royal Life ....Level	£8,658	£9,302	£10,22[illegible]

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at February 14, 1996

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.65
	10,000	AIG Life	4.75
	20,000	AIG Life	4.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.00
2 Years			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.93
	10,000	AIG Life	5.03
	20,000	AIG Life	5.18
	50,000	AIG Life	5.33
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.50
	5,000	AIG Life	5.02
	10,000	AIG Life	5.22
	20,000	AIG Life	5.33
	50,000	AIG Life	5.42
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.70
	5,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.20
	10,000	Premium Life	5.50
	50,000	Premium Life	5.50
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.10
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.20

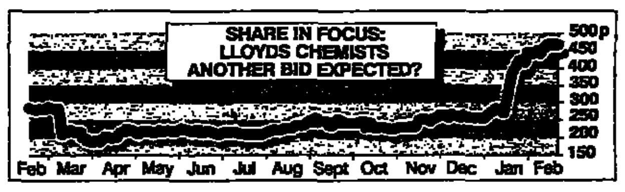
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	98.92	9.470	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	121.59	9.548	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	*13.000%*	*135.96*	*9.541*	*100.20*	*10,000*
Bristol & West	13.375%	139.78	9.549	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	134.43	9.655	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	126.52	9.562	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	115.74	10.143	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	94.13	9.296	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	126.44	9.288	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	145.17	9.360	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	*13.375%*	*138.97*	*9.607*	*100.23*	*1,000*
Newcastle	10.750%	115.50	9.294	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	135.50	9.300	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	138.14	9.117	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	137.33	9.356	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First Nat (20/03-20/09)	9.30000%	100.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Rate fixed to 30.11.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.19	to £100k	90	*6.25% discount* to 1.3.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.39	neg	95	6% disc-1 year, 2% disc-18 mths
Banks				
Barclays 0800 000929	3.74	£15k+	90	3.75% discount for 1 year
National Westminst 0800 400999	2.49	£15k+	90	5.50% disc-12mth Var rate-31.6.01

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	*Notes*
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Rate fixed to 30.11.96
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.35	to £150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	to £150k	70	Rate fixed for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.00%dsc-6 mth: 3% dsc-6 mth
Nat West Bank 0800 400999	2.49	£15k+	90	5.50% dsc-12mth Var rt-31.6.01

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	1.89	no min/max	95	fixed to 1.12.96
Derbyshire 01332 841791	4.44	£15,050 - £79,999	95	3% disc for 1 yr, 1% in year 2
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	4.24	£15k+	95	3.25% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Brk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.00% disc-6 mth, 3.00% disc-6 mth
TSB 0121 6006147	3.75	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 12 months

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	525.60	556.20	+ 6.10	...
UK Equity	661.50	700.10	+12.80	...
Property	516.60	546.70	- 0.70	.
Fixed Interest	359.90	380.90	- 0.60	.
Money	262.20	277.50	- 0.20	
International	465.50	492.60	- 1.20	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	249.20	262.40	- 0.10	..
-do- Acc	490.40	516.30	...	..
Equity Fd Inc	203.80	214.60	+ 3.90	...
-do- Acc	279.60	294.40	+ 5.50	..
Selective Fd	533.80	561.90	+ 3.80	...
Money Fd	397.30	418.30	+ 0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.30	394.10	...	...
Equity Ser 4	257.50	271.10	+ 3.90	..
Man Ser 4	751.20	790.80	+ 5.50	.
Conv Ser 4	343.80	361.90	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	343.40	361.50	+ 0.30	.
Fixed Int Ser 4	372.90	392.50		0
American Ser 4	601.90	633.60	- 0.90	...
High Inc Ser 4	776.80	817.70	+ 8.50	.
Indexed Int Ser 4	223.30	235.10	- 0.70	..
Japan Ser 4	367.30	386.50	- 2.20	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1780.40	1874.10	+28.30	..
European Fd Acc	417.30	439.20	+ 3.30	.
Fixed Int Acc	549.30	576.20	- 1.60	.
Gtd Money Acc	350.10	368.50	+ 0.20	...
Intl Managed Acc	690.10	726.40	- 3.40	
Int Fxd Int Acc	361.60	380.50	- 2.00	..
Japan Fund	270.00	284.20	- 2.90	.
N American Acc	385.60	409.00	- 0.10	..
Prop Fd Acc	455.60	479.50	- 0.60	
Multiple Inv Acc	1160.10	1221.10	+10.20	
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	391.10	411.70	+ 0.30	.
Equity Acc	1634.20	1720.30	+21.10	...
Property Acc	611.10	643.30	+ 0.40	...
Far East Acc	353.30	371.90	+ 2.60	.
Managed Capital	594.50	625.80	+ 6.10	...
-do- Acc	1249.00	1314.80	+13.20	.
Overseas Acc	1099.00	1156.90	+23.80	...
Gilt Edged Acc	527.40	555.20	+ 0.10	..
Amer Equity Acc	1012.10	1065.40	- 6.10	
Amer Man Acc	426.60	449.10	- 2.40	..
Amer Prop Acc	116.60	122.80	- 0.50	.
Distribution Bonds	25.10	26.50	+ 0.20	
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	171.90	180.90	+ 0.50	..
Balncd Ser 6	816.00	858.90	+10.00	..
Opportunity Ser 6	186.60	196.60	+ 1.70	..
Distribution Ser 6	102.60	107.90	- 2.50	7.04
UK Equities Ser 6	1145.70	1206.00	+18.40	..
Higher Inc Ser 6	1192.10	1254.80	+11.30	..
North Amer Ser 6	580.40	610.90	+ 4.60	.
Far East Ser 6	627.50	660.50	+ 5.20	..
Europe Ser 6	440.60	463.70	+ 4.50	...

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Gas VAT rebate lost in the system

Isnt it great to be out of control /
GED

From Mr Peter Orr

Sir, So farewell to Cedric Brown, who must surely rank high among the many overvalued players in the premier personnel league. Is it mere coincidence, I wonder, that his departure synchronises with the discovery of a failure in the accounting system of British Gas? Some time ago, like many other people, I sought (quite legally, we were assured) to avoid VAT on my fuel bills by depositing in advance quite a large sum of money in my account with British Gas. Now, I am informed that the credit balance has been paid back into my bank. Two letters from me protesting about British Gas's action produced no reply, but a patient woman on the switchboard of British Gas in Edinburgh told me the mishap had occurred as a result of transferring accounts to a new computer system. Well, it would, wouldn't it? From her weary tone, I guessed that mine was just one of similar complaints. An "own goal" for Cedric Brown before his substitute takes over?

Yours faithfully,
PETER ORR,
17 Berkley Drive,
Guisborough, Cleveland.

Pension clawback to be challenged

From Mr David Lindsay

Sir, Mrs Shimmin (Weekend Money Letters, February 3) and others concerned at the "clawback" from unemployment benefit for occupational pensions over £35 per week now suffered by the over-55s — contrary to the principle of "no means test for contributory benefits" enshrined in the Beveridge scheme — may be interested to hear that, although only Parliament can wholly undo what it ought never to have done, Cespa (Campaign for Equal State Pension Ages), fresh from its triumph in the prescription charge case, is looking into the feasibility of challenging the method of imposition of the clawback — also by reference to the Equal Treatment Directive.

After all, setting the clawback age at 55 for both men and women means that men can suffer it for up to ten years, against five for women, and also that many more men than women are affected by it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LINDSAY
(Legal Adviser for Cespa),
36 Orchard Coombe,
Whitchurch Hill,
Reading.

Why it would pay to die on a Tuesday

From Mr T. Lomas

Sir, Mr Baird (Weekend Money Letters, February 10) need not despair. My 65th birthday this year also falls on a Tuesday but when I questioned the fairness of my entitlement to state pension not beginning until the following Monday, I was told that in the week of my death I would be entitled to a full week's pension, whether I live a full week or not.

To take full advantage of this Mr Baird should arrange that when he eventually has to die he should die on a Tuesday, or at latest on a Monday after he has collected his pension, but the night before he dies he should have a whale of a night out on a full week's pension.

Yours faithfully,
T. LOMAS,
21 Clarence Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Premium Bond vigil

From Mr R. Jarvis

Sir, I often find it interesting to read that when Premium Bond winners are announced, National Savings also releases details of the number of bonds held by each winner.

What I should like to know is how long the winner has owned the bonds before being successful. Why you may ask? Because I have owned one bond since 1957! My optimism of being an eventual winner has cost me approximately £14 in lost interest! Am I just being reckless by continuing to be patient?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD JARVIS,
14 Woodview Close,
Colchester.

Information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime number. *The Times* asks that original documents are not sent in.

Sids need to be considered

From Mrs C. M. Behrmann

Sir, *The Times* of February 9 had an article entitled "More risk, less reward" in which it says: "Amazingly, BT still has 2.5 million shareholders content to see it underperform a rising stock market average indefinitely".

I am an 80-year old Sid and I am not at all content.

Sids bought privatisation shares in the belief that the Government was selling them a fair investment; so it would have been if BT had not suffered persistent punitive restrictions, hampering it at every turn.

Surely, competition now is global, not just little Britain, and as BT is Britain's telecommunications front-runner (though probably will not be permitted to be so much longer) the telecommunications regulator should be giving it assistance to compete worldwide, not as its "worst enemy", as *The Times* reported, assisting the likes of AT&T to undermine it.

And in the Office of Telecommunication's competition frenzy isn't it time some thought might be given to the shareholders?

Yours faithfully,
C. M. BEHRMANN,
57 Powys,
Sidmouth,
Devon.

When returns are far from friendly

Societies are facing criticism over their fees, **Caroline Merrell** finds

Friendly societies aim their products at those who have very little spare income to save. Their plans allow people to invest up to £270 a year, or £25 a month, in a policy that is free from tax. However, over the past few years, as the life insurance industry has moved over to disclosing the true cost of their products, these provident institutions have come under fire for imposing high charges.

The anomaly between providing a product for the poor, but charging a lot of money for the privilege, was highlighted by Paddy Goodman, a reader of *The Times* from Scotland.

He was sent details of a ten-year savings plan from the Homeowners Friendly Society. In the marketing literature aimed at advertising the plan, Homeowners explains that an investor aged 45, saving £20.50 over a ten-year period would get back £2,680, assuming a growth rate of 6 per cent. Mr Goodman is incensed. He said: "My investment would be £2,460 over ten years, so at £2,680 my return is nearer to 1 per cent a year than 6 per cent."

Anyone investing £20.50 a month, for example, into a Nationwide account, assuming the interest rate of 5.85 per cent is maintained would get £3,125.61 at the end of ten years, with no risk to capital.

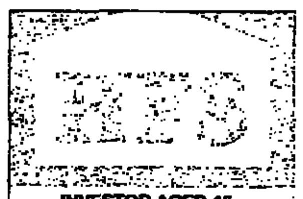
Mr Goodman claims the illustration is misleading. He says: "There must be thousands and thousands of small savers who will go to their bed tonight in the mistaken belief that they will be getting a 6 per cent return on their modest investment."

The friendly society lists the charges on this product in the following way: a £6 per annum policy fee, an annual management charge of up to 0.235 per cent of the fund per annum, and a 5 per cent bid/offer spread on each investment.

Peter Stanford, Homeowners Friendly Society head of marketing, said: "The savings plan invests in the Great British Exempt fund, which in 1995 grew by 23.05 per cent including charges. With a period of low interest rates, this is a fairly healthy return. Performance depends on the growth in the market and the perfomance of our fund managers, which cannot be accurately forecast. The charges made on the policy may appear high, but they are not unreasonable, and are comparable with other societies'."

A survey in next month's *Planned Savings*, the monthly trade magazine, found that the charges on friendly society products would cut the annual yield on some policies by as much as 5.9 per cent.

This means that even if the policy yielded a 10 per cent return, the charges would cut back this yield to 4 per cent.



INVESTOR AGED 45

Monthly premium............ £20.50
Contract term.................10 years
Life cover.........................£1,845

If investments grew at 6% a year you would get back £2,680

If investments grew at 9% a year you would get back £3,100

If investments grew at 12% a year you would get back £3,590

The example HFS sent

*D*oesn't a high return with immediate tax savings sound better than a TESSA?

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Founded 1762
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TIM 17/02/96

6 out of 6 funds are in the top 25% of their sectors for their performance over 5 years. Positions are to 1st February 1996 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Micropal). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested.

هكذا في الاصل

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 259 783				
Grofund Amer	206.40	218.40	-3.00	0.19
Grofund Equity	279.10	296.90	+6.60	1.79
Grofund Euro	254.50	269.30	+6.10	0.63
Grofund Extr Bal	130.00	134.70		4.49
Grofund Gilt	76.70	79.07	-0.22	4.95
Grofund Japan	179.60	190.10	-1.50	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	640.40	681.30	+12.80	2.47
General Inc	550.10	585.30	+11.10	2.47
UK Growth Acc	434.30	462.10	+9.40	2.67
UK Growth Inc	289.40	307.90	+6.40	2.67
Higher Inc Acc	788.80	839.30	+12.30	3.99
Higher Inc Inc	438.90	467.00	+6.90	3.99
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	207.20	218.80	+0.90	5.43
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	95.26	100.60	+0.40	5.43
Nth America	356.20	373.60	+2.70	.
Europe	333.80	355.20	+4.10	0.57
Bnl Exted	86.26	91.77	+1.70	2.76
Bnl Fndmls Acc	114.80	122.20	+1.30	4.52
Bnl Fndmls Inc	80.36	85.49	+0.86	4.52
Global Opps	100.10	106.50	+0.30	0.14
Balanced Acc	62.58	66.58	+0.86	2.63
Balanced Inc	59.88	63.71	+0.83	2.63
Japan Acc	47.86	50.92	-0.11	
Pac Basin Acc	430.20	457.70	+8.80	0.68
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fxd Int	131.20	139.20	-0.20	7.18
High Inc Equity	180.90	193.50†	+2.60	4.35
Worldwide Bond	288.10	305.50†	-0.90	4.58
American Growth	354.80	379.40†	-1.10	0.57
Asian Pacific	352.50	377.00	+4.70	0.11
Assets & Earnings	298.80	317.90	+4.30	2.69
Euro Capital Acc	167.10	178.70	+0.10	0.58
Extra Inc	44.33	47.16†	-0.05	8.52
General	273.40	290.50†	+5.00	2.86
Global Opps	63.88	67.96	+0.32	0.44
Japan	127.50	136.40	-0.90	
Managed Inc	48.85	51.12†	+0.20	4.55
Mastertrust	162.80	174.10	+0.80	1.40
US Emerging Cos	185.50	197.30	+1.10	.
Ethical	78.08	83.06	+2.71	2.44
International	135.29	143.80	+0.20	0.71
Balanced & Growth	67.34	71.64†	+1.07	4.29
Global Govt & Sec	71.85	76.75	+0.11	2.45
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2073.00	2156.00	+19.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.74	61.00	+0.02	0.50
Cash	50.54	50.54	+0.05	5.79
Emerging Mkts	73.11	77.49	+0.34	0.04
European	136.09	141.50†	+1.30	..
Exempt	1013.30	1081.30†	-3.20	1.72
Extra Income #	48.50	51.98	+0.15	6.54
Far East Emg Eco	134.80	141.50	+2.80	0.44
Fixed Interest #	23.81	24.77†	+0.34	9.48
Fund Inv Tst	160.70	168.70†	-0.70	9.22
Japan	187.90	195.40	-1.70	
Latin American	55.18	57.74	-1.28	0.85
Pacific	82.31	92.73	+1.37	0.28
Property Share	63.43	66.58†	+0.32	2.64
UK Emerging Cos	69.34	74.35†	+0.18	1.68
UK Growth	51.15	54.10	+1.06	2.17
Aber World Port #	81.75	83.23	+0.98	1.97
Ethical	76.31	79.37	+1.16	2.22
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	51.11	51.11	+0.09	7.35
For AEGON see Matheson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 258 5868				
Retail Property	94.18	101.10†	+0.19	5.10
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	86.46	91.74	+1.83	2.21
Income Builder Inc	77.90	82.87	+0.96	2.76
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	269.60	288.20	+5.20	3.22
Capital	476.60	509.40	+10.10	1.23
Balanced	780.50	834.30†	+15.90	2.50
Accumulator	1491.00	1593.00	+24.00	1.96
Income Trusts				
American Income	59.66	63.69†	-0.70	2.51
High Income	441.60	472.00	+6.90	4.91
Equity Income	244.80	261.60†	+4.20	4.04
High Yield	266.20	284.50	+3.90	4.17
Govt Securities	34.43	36.38	-0.07	6.00
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	199.50	213.30	-2.70	0.05
European Growth	45.63	48.79†	+0.38	0.08
International	189.00	201.80†	+0.60	0.11
Japan	208.70	223.10	-2.10	..
Pacific	438.20	468.40	+2.20	..
Secs of America	556.20	592.30	-8.60	0.13
Worldw Asset Val	55.48	59.30†	+0.18	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	594.50	635.50	+12.00	1.59
Com & Gilt	45.72	48.87†	+0.22	4.44
Smaller Cos	193.60	207.10†	+0.50	1.08
2nd Smaller Cos	184.40	197.10	+0.70	0.94
Recovery	159.90	170.90	+4.40	1.85
Met Min & Cdty	174.40	186.40	-5.20	0.17
Ovsts Earnings	401.40	429.00	+8.70	1.17
Technology	211.50	226.50†	-4.50	..
UK Special Sits	551.50	589.50†	+12.90	1.08
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pers	115.50	119.90	+1.00	3.04
Foundtn Persl Pens	69.18	71.87	+0.47	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 600 0093				
Capital	79.60	84.68†	+1.88	1.74
International	70.80	75.40		.
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
America	327.80	351.10	+1.80	..
Bond	117.80	123.90†	-0.60	6.79
Brit Smlr Cos	114.10	121.40†	+0.90	1.69
Corp & Gen #	70.00	74.48†	+0.49	5.32
Europe	256.70	271.40	+0.50	0.61
Euro Smlr Cos	115.70	123.30	+1.00	0.63
Income Grth	382.00	406.40	+1.00	3.78
Japan	327.10	348.10	-5.70	..
Latin American	80.89	86.05	-1.34	0.50
Pacific	120.50	128.20	+1.60	1.13
UK Smlr Cos	57.98	61.68†	+0.23	0.89
Japan Fd	684.80	708.20†	-9.30	
Mngd Fd	197.70	210.00	-0.50	3.02
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
Brit & Ovseas	360.70	381.50	+2.00	0.95
Capital Grth	124.80	132.00	+3.30	2.48
Wwide Opps	219.80	232.50	+1.40	0.93
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	408.40	425.40	+10.70	2.50
Eur Bd Inc	94.76	98.03†	-0.27	6.30
Exempt	80.79	88.17	+1.51	3.93
Financial	98.55	103.30	+2.30	2.41
500	483.80	529.30	+3.80	2.59
General	214.60	228.80	+6.00	2.45
Property	243.90	258.40†	-8.10	6.46
Trustee	216.10	231.90	+4.20	2.30
Income Trusts				
Gilt Inc	100.60	100.63†	+0.10	5.69
Extra Income #	134.00	143.30	+2.60	4.73
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.67	60.63	-0.05	8.14
Income #	577.67	617.90†	+8.50	4.66
Income Builder #	69.35	74.31	+0.85	5.31
Ltd Income	70.82	75.34	+0.47	2.30
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	136.08	145.00†	+2.40	2.01
Leisure	163.60	175.00	+4.10	0.90
Recovery	470.20	502.80	-13.50	2.67
Smlr Cos Inc	51.55	55.23	+0.71	2.16
Special Sits	358.45	383.30	+7.40	1.31
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	168.83	179.50	-1.30	0.23
Aust Acc	279.20	298.32	-2.80	1.93
Aust Inc	168.30	179.80	-1.60	1.93
Euro Grth Inc	174.40	185.00	-0.55	0.58
-do- Accum	183.32	193.60	-0.55	0.59
Japan & Gen Inc	162.60	172.13	-0.50	
-do- Accum	164.50	174.10	-0.50	
Japan Spec Sits	73.47	77.83	-3.50	
Worldwide	196.46	207.50†	+0.60	0.52
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 214 1004				
American Growth	128.50	133.70	-0.10	
Amer Smlr Cos	151.40	162.40	-1.90	
Convertibles	58.12	62.33	+0.57	4.90
Eastern	320.60	338.20	-5.00	0.32
Equity Income	92.44	98.46†	+1.68	3.62
European Growth	362.60	384.43	+3.37	0.85
Europe	299.30	318.00	+5.30	0.32
German Growth	85.95	91.06	+0.06	0.52
Global Bond	69.52	73.11†	-0.24	6.50
Global Growth	147.82	157.40	+0.03	0.40
Japan Growth	210.10	223.10	-1.20	
Japan Smlrcos	167.30	178.23	-0.60	
Korea Trust	78.87	84.17	-2.41	
Pacific	143.50	153.50	-0.65	2.30
-do- Accum	282.32	297.57	+2.62	2.30
UK Growth	94.75	101.50	+1.59	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	36.69	39.43	+0.12	2.50
Select Managed	86.68	92.93	+1.39	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD 0171 250 3300				
Intl Spec Port Inc	89.42	95.13†	-1.67	
Contrarian Opps Inc	63.25	67.29†	-0.25	
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD 0141 223 5022				
Balanced Growth	132.41	140.12	+4.30	1.34
-do- Accum	151.51	160.32	+4.30	1.34
Smaller Cos	132.56	141.34	+1.87	0.72
Higher Yield #	53.05	56.14†	+0.75	4.19
American Gth Inc	94.81	100.35†	+1.47	
European Growth	150.56	157.33	+0.26	0.09
-do- Accum	153.53	162.47	+0.36	0.09
Global Bond Inc #	27.63	29.50	-0.13	7.01
Mngd Ptflo Inc	50.38	53.29	+0.49	1.33
-do- Accum	51.67	54.65	+0.50	1.33
Int Spec Opps	151.24	160.15	-0.69	
Pacific Grth	153.46	162.33	-3.21	0.22
UK General #	87.36	92.39	+0.32	3.00
Index	92.59	97.38	+0.22	3.01
Japan	61.43	65.91	-0.72	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	97.11	103.72	-1.71	6.14
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	60.23	60.68	+0.02	6.14
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0161 837 5060				
Stelcap	177.60	189.50	+3.00	1.73
UK Growth	196.70	209.20	+4.70	1.30
UK Income	148.40	155.80	+1.80	4.13
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD 01707 622 100				
Can Sel Dist	225.40	239.90†	+4.00	1.66
-do- Income Dist	122.10	129.40	+2.70	3.86
-do- Accum	384.20	407.20	+5.50	3.86
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.81	43.26	-0.05	6.29
Growth Units	239.50	256.10	+4.50	2.00
Bond	172.60	182.40	-4.60	7.53
Intl Growth	249.50	260.30	-0.40	0.18
North American	247.50	263.70	-2.30	0.24
Far East	93.50	99.80	+6.08	0.68
UK Smaller Cos	206.80	221.20	-3.20	1.06
European	93.60	99.22	+0.62	0.57
Japanese Growth	49.14	52.18	-0.11	
High Income	215.50	230.50	+4.20	3.91
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7459				
American & Gen	203.60	216.07	+0.70	..
European Inc	88.46	94.74	+0.53	0.86
Smaller Cos (4-1)	96.77	102.65	+0.28	1.45
Growth	494.70	526.30†	+8.15	1.74
Income & Growth #	448.50	477.20†	+7.72	3.79
-do- Accum #	662.90	705.30	+11.30	3.79
Japan & Gen	71.01	75.30	-0.49	..
Master Portfolio	£113.35	£117.05†	+140.00	5.12
Special Sits	£136.03	£142.62	+189.00	2.12
	116.00	122.50†	+1.10	1.80
High Yield	£14.63	£15.09	+26.00	4.33

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97.79	104.55†	-0.81	2.47
American Portfolio	119.03	126.39	-0.17	0.89
European Portfolio	118.41	126.02	+0.08	0.46
High Income	51.17	51.28†	-0.10	7.75
Japanese Portfolio	69.75	74.15†	-0.79	
Pacific Portfolio	162.66	174.91	+1.31	1.38
UK Inc & Growth	92.64	98.99	+0.99	2.89
Utility & Bond	58.22	58.90	+0.36	6.49
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	741.71	752.91	-1.59	4.78
Fxd Int Sec	157.62	158.46	-0.08	8.02
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	736.00	747.12	+2.32	4.34
Investment Acc	£32.82	£33.32	+10.45	
Fixed Int Inc	127.37	127.89	-0.01	8.89
Fixed Int Acc	218.70	217.56	-0.01	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	93.85	98.96	-0.05	3
Beck Bio-Tech	51.81	54.93	-0.50	
Accm Ethical Tst	169.59	178.88	+1.36	0.61
City Fin Accels	77.48	81.36	-1.02	2.06
City Fin America	115.25	121.02	-0.10	
City Fin Intl	93.67	98.30	-0.15	0.82
City Fin Japan	153.30	160.98†	-1.62	.
Friars Hse Cap	300.22	325.26†	-5.45	2.34
Friars Hse Inc	199.78	212.51	-4.12	4.18
Buckley Wrld Grth	144.64	158.35	+0.52	.
Fairmn Cap Gth	150.27	158.18	+0.20	..
Fairmount Intl	161.76	170.27	-0.18	.
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	57.21	60.08	+0.26	1.56
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 380				
Emerging Markets	60.03	63.69†	+0.07	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	77.02	81.94	-0.53	
Dolphin Growth	76.29	81.59	+1.10	0.37
Equity High Inc	91.06	96.97	+1.52	3.94
-do- Accum	127.78	135.48	+2.12	3.94
Extra Income Inc	26.44	27.84	-0.02	7.30
Extra Income Acc	27.84	29.32	-0.02	7.30
European Gwth	60.24	63.92	+0.86	0.92
Evergreen	29.92	32.00	+0.02	..
General Equity	98.29	104.92	+2.46	2.82
Japan Growth	52.12	55.45	-0.81	
Pedigree Gwth	58.56	63.36	+1.05	2.54
Ped Sm Cos Inc	35.08	37.30	+0.36	1.49
-do- Accum	36.91	39.27	+0.37	1.49
Retirement Inc #	28.22	30.02	+0.58	5.70
Special Sits	45.08	47.94	+0.88	1.94
UK & Overseas	58.09	61.63	+0.84	0.73
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 898 000				
Balanced	66.90	69.80	-0.96	4.04
Capital	79.37	82.57	-1.77	1.84
High Income	50.84	52.89	-0.09	
Top 50	53.82	55.99	+1.36	
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	181.44	193.02	+2.78	4.53
Fixed & Convertible	41.13	43.76†	-0.02	6.73
Monthly Inc Plus	49.39	52.54	-0.05	8.59
Preference Share	46.82	49.81†	-0.04	7.63
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	134.32	142.89†	-1.49	5.69
Managed Fund	76.21	81.07	+0.85	2.98
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	46.12	49.06	+0.46	1.66
-do- Accum	53.69	57.12	+0.56	1.66
UK & General	92.29	98.18	+1.94	2.60
-do- Accum	118.44	126.00	+2.48	2.60
UK Growth	174.97	186.14	+4.97	2.17
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	206.85	220.05	+2.14	0.11
Far Eastern Grth	144.58	153.81	+1.81	.
Global Bond	84.63	90.16	+0.03	5.86
Japan Growth	119.40	127.02	-0.43	
North Amer Gth	228.28	242.85	+0.70	
Oriental Growth	89.77	95.50	+1.83	0.06
Worldwide Growth	74.83	79.61	+0.43	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.10	93.10	+0.08	5.56
Homeowner Fund	91.36	97.19†	+1.21	1.55
Quilter Fund	151.24	160.88†	+2.74	1.93
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	34.06	36.46†	+0.30	3.40
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 360				
Growth	176.20	187.46	+3.50	1.33
Income	71.32	75.87†	+1.28	5.57
European	69.29	73.71	+0.59	0.47
Recovery	168.00	178.70	+0.90	1.82
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	938.50	953.80	+5.28	3.38
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	98.80	105.10	+1.50	1.43
Income #	278.80	298.50	+3.70	4.04
-do- Accum #	714.80	760.40	+9.50	4.04
Smaller Cos	218.10	223.50†	+2.20	1.03
-do- Accum	259.80	276.30	+2.70	1.03
Inv Portfolio	98.07	102.20†	+1.30	1.67
High Inc Port #	80.29	85.31	+1.07	4.18
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1613.20	1686.70	+5.80	.
Japan Small Cos	1291.90	1318.00	-26.00	.
UK Small Cos	1988.60	2070.60†	+9.00	.
US Small Cos	2014.80	2054.70	+3.80	.
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	232.50	234.20	.	3.02
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	308.80	326.10	-0.39	0.65
New Asia	252.10	269.20	+2.70	0.21
Japan Growth	113.80	121.20	-1.09	.
Jap Smllr Co	466.90	497.20	-3.48	
Nth Amer	384.40	406.90	-1.29	0.71
UK Inc & Grth	244.60	261.10	+8.80	2.71
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	161.40	171.60	+3.20	1.88
UK High Inc Inc	169.60	180.60	+2.90	3.78
-do- Accum	225.00	239.30	+3.70	3.78
UK Pref & F I Inc	59.16	62.83	-0.17	5.89
Emrgmnt Opps	95.51	101.60	+1.10	0.98
UK Smlr Cos	62.07	66.03	+0.48	0.80
Extra Income Inc	47.94	51.00†	-0.17	7.80
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 020 526				
American	167.00	177.20	-0.80	0.45
Convertible #	22.30	23.89	+0.13	5.91
Equity Income #	140.40	149.20	+3.10	4.02
Eurofund	56.50	59.50†	+0.38	0.33
Financial	53.02	56.33	+0.56	1.33
Growth & Inc #	275.10	292.30†	+6.50	2.84
High Dist #	175.90	186.90	+3.50	4.65
International	444.20	472.90	+3.90	0.11
Intl Cap Inc	165.40	172.30†	+1.30	2.92
Latin American	30.66	32.53	-0.99	
Pacific	92.74	98.54	-0.77	..
Pref High Inc	22.08	23.44†	+0.08	7.04
Tokyo	239.20	253.00	-2.10	..
UK Smaller Cos	247.40	262.95	+3.40	1.14
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 0171 242 0242				
Sht Director Dlgs	103.15	109.65	-1.59	1.29
Growth Acc	246.67	255.32		0.79
Income	585.22	622.25†	+2.73	5.44
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 373 7267				
Endurance Fd	226.15	240.50	-1.20	1.07

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6509 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	76.18	81.10	+0.56	
-do- Accum	76.10	81.10	+0.59	
Amer Smllr Cos	635.90	670.50	-8.70	...
-do- Accum	640.40	684.90	-7.00	
Capital Tst	358.30	381.20	+2.30	1.21
-do- Accum	520.40	553.60	+3.30	1.21
Cont Smlr Cos	61.88	66.10	+1.10	0.83
-do- Accum	65.29	69.76	+1.17	0.89
Convertible	137.20	146.00†	+1.00	5.08
-do- Accum	281.30	300.98†	+2.30	5.08
Emerging Markets	70.15	74.69	+0.22	
-do- Accum	70.40	75.21	+0.22	
European	133.80	141.60	-0.98	0.43
-do- Accum	140.40	148.50	-0.98	0.43
Extra Income	373.70	397.60†	+5.30	3.63
-do- Accum	581.70	618.80†	+8.10	3.63
Financial	157.20	167.20	+3.20	0.82
-do- Accum	166.50	177.10	+3.50	0.82
Gilt Trust	65.26	67.30	+0.26	5.94
-do- Accum	96.11	99.10	+0.37	5.94
Health Fund Inc	266.60	284.80	+3.70	
-do- Accum	266.60	284.80	+3.70	
Income & Growth	221.70	235.80	+5.00	3.05
-do- Accum	346.80	368.70	+7.90	3.06
Intl Growth	424.30	452.60	+1.30	
-do- Accum	471.10	502.60	+1.50	
Japan & Gen	183.80	195.70	-0.90	
-do- Accum	185.60	197.60	-1.00	
Monthly Inc #	185.02	196.80†	+3.80	3.55
Managed Port Inc	126.20	134.40	+1.20	1.73
-do- Accum	126.80	133.50	+1.20	1.73
Quarterly Income #	54.72	58.72†	+0.76	4.28
-do- Accum #	61.22	65.77†	+0.88	4.28
Recovery	358.40	383.30†	+1.60	0.85
-do- Accum	423.10	452.50†	+1.80	0.85
UK Growth	62.45	66.44	+1.08	2.17
-do- Accum	66.19	70.42	+1.16	2.11
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	58.52	62.25	-0.40	0.53
FP Am Smllr Cos	185.80	198.70	-8.70	.
FP Asian Growth	304.60	325.70	+3.50	
FP Australian	395.00	423.80	+4.60	
FP Equity Dist	436.80	483.40	+8.90	2.43
-do- Accum	944.70	1010.05	+19.40	2.43
FP Euro Gth	255.40	271.70	-0.50	0.14
-do- Accum	277.60	295.30	-1.00	0.14
FP Intl Bond	60.46	63.97	-0.12	4.87
FP Intl Gth Dist	37.81	40.35	+0.03	0.40
-do- Accum	55.21	58.92	+0.07	0.40
FP Pac Basin Acc	230.50	245.30	+1.00	
FP Income #	57.85	61.70	+1.13	4.91
-do- Accum #	195.80	208.60	+3.80	4.91
FP Jap Smllr Cos	308.70	329.20	-3.80	
FP Monthly Dist #	74.73	79.75	+0.89	5.26
FP Stlg Deposit	100.60	100.60	+0.10	5.60
FP Tokyo	84.30	89.90	-1.52	
FP UK Focus	40.69	43.75	+0.83	2.59
FP UK Growth	191.30	204.00	+4.00	2.41
-do- Accum	379.70	405.00	+8.10	2.41
Stewardship Dist	391.30	416.20	+4.10	1.78
-do- Accum	487.00	518.00	+5.00	1.78
Stewdshp Inc Dist #	77.18	82.10†	+0.31	4.82
-do- Accum #	103.50	110.10†	+0.40	4.82
N Am Stshp Dist	120.10	127.70	-0.78	0.81
-do- Accum	128.70	136.90	-0.70	0.81
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Grth Acc	123.00	130.89	+0.40	1.04
Open Cap Gth Acc	128.00	136.10	+0.70	0.05
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	116.20	123.60	+0.60	2.29
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	121.50	129.20	+0.30	2.29
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	118.80	126.30	+0.70	3.36
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	125.10	133.00	+0.80	3.36
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0345 581 166/7				
GANDA	275.00	290.80	+5.40	2.12
Cash	49.35	50.09†	+0.03	5.31
Growth Portfolio	87.57	92.53	-0.29	0.88
Income Portfolio	70.42	74.47†	+0.78	4.13
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD 0171 298 8441				
Special Sits	227.00	242.80	-3.30	1.11
Dividend	94.90	101.90†	+1.20	4.00
Intl Gth & Inc	240.70	257.40†	+1.30	3.04
UK & Gen	49.01	52.42†	+0.24	1.95
Fund of Funds	73.84	78.97	+0.42	..
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
Amer Spec Sits	236.20	252.70	-5.80	..
European	633.70	685.00	+7.50	0.29
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	52.68	56.08	+0.39	4.84
-do- Accum	57.25	61.04	+0.42	4.84
Far East & Gen	288.80	306.90	+2.60	
Germany	128.40	137.50	+0.80	
High Yield #	48.91	51.68†	-0.07	8.18
-do- Accum	52.18	55.14	-0.08	8.18
Income Inc	186.30	199.90	+6.10	3.93
-do- Accum	206.20	220.60	+6.80	3.93
International	378.60	405.60	+5.90	
Intl Income	93.26	98.76	-0.01	2.92
Japan & General	443.70	471.60	-7.10	
Korean Securities	65.63	70.20	+0.21	
Orient Acc	172.20	184.30	+8.10	0.19
UK Capital Inc	189.70	202.90†	+5.00	1.34
UK Capital Acc	335.70	359.10	+8.80	1.34
UK Smlr Cos Inc	46.72	49.97†	+0.58	4.34
-do- Accum	52.62	56.28	+0.64	4.34
UK Spec Sits	98.83	105.70	+0.40	1.22
US Growth	186.30	197.40	-1.39	.
Wwide Spec Sits	158.00	168.60	+0.10	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS 0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	57.87	61.81†	+1.21	1.80
Cash Trust	142.49	142.49†	+0.11	5.70
Practical Inv Inc #	123.94	132.56	-0.04	2.55
-do- Accum #	290.86	311.08	-0.14	2.55
UK Index	173.53	174.40	+3.32	3.17
UK Smaller Cos	156.53	167.41	+0.73	0.69
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24.26	25.14†		8.00
High Income	34.46	36.94†	+0.65	5.10
UK Equity Income	152.36	162.05†	+2.51	3.01
Global Bond	30.71	31.83	-0.05	5.06
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	48.15	51.50	+0.08	..
Global Managed	149.66	159.34	+0.35	1.51
Gold & Intl Res	126.80	135.61	-1.25	0.83
Global Utilities	147.86	156.93†	+0.89	1.64
Overseas Funds				
American	189.38	201.35	-1.18	0.88
European	124.02	131.37†	+1.42	0.91
Euro Sel Opps	185.42	195.26	-1.01	.
Amer Emerging	146.38	155.56	-0.86	..
Hong Kong	170.08	182.14†	+0.22	1.77
Japan	251.84	267.48	-3.07	
Pacific Growth	240.46	257.18	+1.79	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	247.35	247.35†	+4.48	2.04
Long Term Bal	268.88	268.88†	+4.22	3.00
Med Term Bal	222.49	222.49†	+2.17	3.09
UK Equity	283.25	283.25	+7.46	2.48
UK Emerging Cos	164.16	164.16	+1.61	2.02
American	312.48	312.48	-1.04	1.70
Japan	137.17	137.17	-1.00	
European	321.82	321.82	+4.02	1.00
Index Linked Gilt	179.48	179.48	-0.08	2.72
Fixed Interest	170.38	170.38†	+0.45	6.43
Amer Emerging	342.55	342.55	-3.82	..
Pacific	265.18	265.18	+2.03	0.75
Emerging Mkts	133.17	133.17†	-0.39	0.66
Index Strat Japan	157.08	157.08†	-0.22	0.18
-do- Pacific Rim	216.19	216.19†	-3.81	1.29
-do- Cont Europe	178.36	178.36†	+1.47	1.89
Index Strat USA	183.62	183.62†	-0.80	1.70

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	166.30	178.08	+2.23	0.94
European Valued	62.47	67.74	-0.32	0.68
-do- Accum	82.54	93.99	-0.99	0.68
Japan Trust	234.89	250.25†	-3.13	...
Japan Special Sits	240.10	255.92	-1.66	
Pacific Smlr Cos	253.56	271.30	-2.71	
North American	353.20	374.02†	-1.29	..
American Smaller	160.09	171.12	-0.70	..
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth	156.63	164.30†	+1.70	4.05
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS 0181 686 4355				
British	115.46	122.90	+2.69	1.76
Capital	290.97	309.50†	+2.19	1.10
Dollar	472.31	494.25	-0.92	
Enterprise Gth	388.18	408.45	+7.80	1.29
European	263.92	278.36	+1.54	0.35
Far East	353.73	373.29	-6.37	
Financial	199.94	210.38	+23.79	1.77
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	21.15	22.20†	-0.01	6.55
High Yield	110.58	115.82	-2.22	3.68
Income & Growth	159.93	167.47	+3.29	3.07
International	298.56	312.63†	+1.75	...
Japanese General	225.24	235.85	-1.32	..
Japan Tech	96.47	101.57	-1.25	..
Natl Resources	90.23	94.43	-1.32	..
Portfolio	93.71	97.65	+1.01	1.32
Special Sits	189.70	198.94	+4.88	0.48
UK Emerging Cos	109.02	114.16†	-1.22	0.84
US Smaller Cos	130.14	136.27	-1.22	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	618.73	668.30†	+12.20	6.42
Capital	692.20	738.52	-14.80	1.99
Balanced #	112.90	119.60†	-1.50	6.28
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	611.60	652.10	-2.40	0.43
European Gwth	132.50	141.60	+0.30	0.15
Japan Gwth	294.70	314.30	-3.20	..
Japan Smllr Cos	33.69	35.96†	-0.19	..
Asian	69.63	74.31	+1.28	0.15
Sing & Malay Gwth	52.47	58.69	-3.29	..
Hong Kong Gwth	137.80	147.10	-2.60	1.09
Global Bond	22.93	24.27†	-0.12	5.70
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	160.40	161.22†	+3.10	3.43
Trste Index	119.39	122.40†	-0.20	2.30
THE FOOTSIE FUND	62.60	62.91	-1.39	3.01
Index Funds-International				
American Index	271.30	272.70†	-2.90	1.16
Eurotrack 100	185.60	196.50†	-0.82	1.15
Japan Index	82.68	84.10†		0.22
Tiger Index	225.20	226.30	+5.90	0.42
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	43.56	45.22†	-0.63	0.82
General Funds				
Managed Dist	84.34	87.87	+1.12	1.25
Managed	86.14	89.54	+1.15	1.25
Bucket Child Fnd	98.12	102.00	+2.27	1.98
UK Growth	68.55	71.26	+1.51	1.88
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	88.12	89.62†	+1.32	6.67
Gilt & Fixed Int	27.05	27.91†	-0.02	8.74
UK Inc & Gwth	46.32	48.15	+1.22	3.06
UK Income	363.60	378.00	+8.73	4.84
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	61.98	64.28	-0.03	0.29
Amer Smlr Cos	145.20	150.95	-1.30	
-do- Accum	146.70	152.50	-1.20	..
Europe Gth	202.60	208.10	+3.30	...
-do- Accum	207.70	215.50	+3.50	..
Euro Smaller Cos	38.61	40.14	+0.50	
French Growth	88.30	91.79†	+0.70	0.38
-do- Accum	95.48	99.25†	+0.75	0.33
H Kong & China	98.70	102.60†	+1.70	0.87
Intl Growth	66.84	69.48	+0.47	0.17
-do- Accum	67.78	70.46	+0.48	0.17
Japan Gth	33.86	34.93	-0.29	..
-do- Accum	33.56	34.93	-0.29	..
Japan Smaller Cos	38.74	40.27	-0.52	
Glob Emg Mkts	102.10	108.70		
-do- Accum	102.60	106.99		
SE Asia	378.60	393.60	+7.70	0.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	56.50	58.21	-0.05	6.40
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	102.50	108.10	+2.00	3.99
Sector Value Gwth	102.50	108.10	+1.90	2.19
Hy 5 Europe	98.41	103.00	-0.50	2.43
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	214.50	229.60	+3.10	.
Income #	197.49	213.10†	+3.43	4.07
UK Growth	76.55	81.43†	+0.86	2.10
International	85.50	90.95†	+1.42	0.47
Ecology	92.73	105.03	-1.17	1.02
European	161.01	171.16	+4.00	.
Far Eastern	319.20	339.50	+1.30	..

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	112.40	119.60	-0.90	
Master Trust	65.92	70.56	+0.53	1.14
-do- Accum	75.35	80.17	+0.61	1.14
N American Gen	248.40	255.80	-2.79	0.64
-do- Accum	278.00	285.80	-3.00	0.64
N Am Sm Co Inc	184.90	196.80	-4.50	
-do- Accum	188.70	200.80	-4.70	...
Pacific Basin	294.80	313.70†	+3.30	0.07
-do- Accum	314.00	334.10	+3.40	0.07
Small Cos Inc	446.20	471.80	+5.20	1.69
-do- Accum	610.30	642.50	+7.10	1.69
UK Eq Gth	154.80	164.70	+0.40	2.84
UK Eq Inc	126.00	134.10	+2.10	4.13
UK Growth	97.50	103.90	+0.40	1.86
-do- Accum	121.20	129.00	+0.30	1.86
Worldwide Gth	384.30	392.60		...
-do- Accum	398.30	372.70	-0.10	..
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT 01392 282 673				
American	86.61	91.79	-1.00	0.40
General	102.24	109.70	+1.38	2.48
Income	71.54	76.75	+1.24	5.20
International	75.66	80.55	-0.37	0.48
Japan	61.72	65.22	-0.53	..
Tst of Inv Trusts	75.78	81.30	+0.31	1.40
M & G SECURITIES Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	509.30	538.00†	-2.60	0.34
-do- Accum	636.40	672.30†	-2.60	0.34
Amer Recovery	555.30	587.20	-8.70	0.54
-do- Accum	638.60	675.20	-7.70	0.54
Amer Smlr Cos	154.50	163.40†	+1.40	...
-do- Accum	157.60	166.90†	+1.30	...
Australasian	188.30	199.10	+1.30	2.14
-do- Accum	232.40	245.80	+1.70	2.14
Capital	931.00	984.50†	+1.20	2.85
-do- Accum	1097.00	1160.10†	+19.60	2.85
Charifund	747.50	755.00†	+15.50	5.72
-do- Accum	3707.00	3744.10†	+78.70	5.72
Commodity	474.10	501.40†	-6.30	0.43
-do- Accum	699.20	739.40†	-9.40	0.43
Compound Grth	1070.20	1131.70	+25.70	2.98
-do- Accum	1151.40	1217.60	+27.70	2.90
Corporate Bond	25.14	25.23		7.80
Dividend	44.50	47.10	-0.60	4.25
-do- Accum	194.80	205.50	+2.30	4.25
Equity Income	340.10	358.00†	-5.30	5.05
-do- Accum	468.80	495.80†	+3.90	5.05
Euro & General	590.10	624.00	+7.70	0.92
-do- Accum	752.60	795.80	+9.80	0.92
Euro Dividend	80.50	85.10†	+1.00	3.60
-do- Accum	100.00	105.70†	+1.20	3.60
Extra Yield	458.00	484.30	+12.10	4.90
-do- Accum	1483.30	1568.70	+39.20	4.90
Far Eastern	398.20	419.00	+5.10	0.93
-do- Accum	528.40	558.90	+6.90	0.93
Fund of Inv Tsts	694.70	734.60	+2.60	1.77
-do- Accum	1319.80	1395.70	+4.90	1.77
General	67.10	71.00	+1.00	3.79
-do- Accum	195.10	206.50	+2.90	3.79
Gilt Income	61.07	61.16†	-0.49	7.10
-do- Accum	178.97	179.22†	+0.29	7.10
Gold	85.10	90.60†	-3.40	0.36
-do- Accum	101.00	106.90†	-4.10	0.36
High Income	32.20	34.00	-0.50	4.69
-do- Accum	134.40	142.30	+2.10	4.69
Intl Growth	91.20	96.40†	+0.70	0.66
-do- Accum	180.50	189.70†	+1.20	0.66
International Inc	112.70	119.20	+0.60	4.41
-do- Accum	174.20	184.30	+1.00	4.41
Japan & Gen	42.70	46.10	-0.10	..
-do- Accum	45.80	48.40	-0.10	..
Japan Smlr Cos	147.00	155.40	-1.40	..
-do- Accum	149.60	156.50	-1.30	..
Managed Gwth	28.40	27.80†	+0.30	1.70
Managed Income	29.80	31.30†	+0.30	4.17
Midland	59.70	63.10	+0.20	3.55
-do- Accum	205.00	216.70	+0.70	3.55
Pension Ex	1051.40	1077.70	+25.00	4.22
Recovery	46.60	49.30	+1.00	2.63
-do- Accum	78.40	82.90	+1.70	2.63
Second General	73.80	78.00	+0.60	3.60
-do- Accum	197.40	209.00	+1.70	3.60
Smaller Cos	70.60	74.90†	-0.90	3.15
-do- Accum	145.00	153.40†	+0.40	3.15
Treasury	25.15	25.19†	+0.02	6.24
Trustee	43.30	45.80	+0.70	4.67
-do- Accum	181.30	191.80	+3.10	4.67
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	93.09	98.03	+0.99	1.34
Intl Bond	67.68	71.11	-0.25	5.57
Intl Equity Growth	84.33	89.65	+0.16	0.62
N Amer Growth	130.01	138.13	-1.25	0.79
Special Sits Growth	25.37	26.98	+0.58	2.07
UK Growth	434.09	461.70	+9.53	2.61
-do- Accum	581.71	618.83	+12.77	2.61
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1474.30	1495.30	+7.50	2.98
Income #	1032.80	1050.30	+10.20	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	161.10	165.48	+2.40	3.86
For Manulife see Canada Life				

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MOPS

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Pfolio	172.30	181.40†	+1.80	2.17
-do- Accum	202.26	212.90†	+2.10	2.17
UK Sel Pfolio	151.50	159.40	+3.10	2.40
-do- Accum	180.00	189.50	+3.80	2.40
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 642				
Managed Tst	74.23	79.61	+0.11	3.55
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	82.41	87.48	+0.57	3.74
European	97.27	103.30†	+0.20	0.90
Income #	81.96	87.01†	+1.03	4.75
Nth American	89.30	94.80	-0.49	0.30
Far East	180.50	190.00	-1.20	0.04
Japan	62.36	66.20	-0.90	..
Emrgng Mkts	91.48	97.84†	-0.28	.
Intl Growth	130.30	138.30	-0.10	0.54
UK Growth	115.19	122.20	+1.90	2.51
UK Smlr Co	56.16	59.62	+0.97	1.53
Asian Opps Fd	42.35	45.29	-0.59	0.39
Glob Cwth PEP	[illegible]	62.80	+0.54	0.74
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0181 831 7439				
Select Portfolio	101.50	108.00	+0.50	..
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Income	469.21	494.90	+8.11	3.59
Global Inc	76.05	80.90	+0.52	3.45
Bnd Leaders	401.54	427.17	-9.93	1.84
Intl Leaders	228.45	240.53	-1.87	1.29
PAM Mig Bal Grth	72.17	74.98	+0.18	0.69
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD Dealing 0171 280 2800				
American	259.60	274.50	+0.90	.
-do- Accum	277.60	293.10	+1.00	.
American Opps	114.90	122.00	-0.60	.
-do- Accum	116.30	124.10	-0.70	.
British Blue Chip	92.66	98.38	+1.98	2.44
-do- Accum	117.28	124.50	+2.50	2.44
Cash	100.40	100.40	+0.10	6.03
-do- Accum	144.30	144.30	+0.20	6.03
Emerging Mkts	123.60	133.20	+1.20	0.11
-do- Accum	124.60	134.00	+1.18	0.11
European Growth	295.40	322.20	+3.10	0.15
-do- Accum	309.10	330.00	+3.50	0.15
European Income	91.53	98.70	+0.24	2.97
-do- Accum	128.40	135.70	+0.30	2.97
General	582.20	619.30	+12.80	2.00
-do- Accum	1161.00	1235.00	+26.00	2.00
Global Bond	134.60	141.40	-1.08	5.22
-do- Accum	169.80	178.20	-1.30	5.22
Gold & General	262.00	281.70	-5.60	0.32
-do- Accum	278.50	299.50	-5.70	0.32
Gold Securities	93.67	96.58	-0.16	6.08
-do- Accum	191.50	197.40	-0.30	6.08
High Yield Bd	101.00	103.50	-0.20	7.87
-do- Accum	102.40	105.00	-0.30	7.87
Income	175.50	186.40†	+2.90	4.16
-do- Accum	287.30	305.20†	+4.70	4.16
Inc Portfolio #	108.20	114.70	+1.10	4.82
-do- Accum #	114.60	121.50	+1.20	4.82
Intl Opps	536.40	571.10	+2.30	0.16
-do- Accum	720.50	769.50	+3.30	0.16
Japan	179.00	190.50†	-1.90	.
-do- Accum	183.70	194.60†	-2.00	.
New Europe	208.30	221.30†	+4.50	0.90
-do- Accum	218.20	232.70†	+4.80	0.90
Pacific	129.50	138.10	+2.80	0.74
-do- Accum	139.00	148.30	+2.90	0.74
Recovery	384.40	410.00	+7.70	0.63
-do- Accum	498.40	531.60	+10.00	0.63
UK Smaller Cos	81.52	86.82	-0.61	0.78
-do- Accum	70.23	74.91	+0.69	0.78
Portfolio	82.72	88.34	+1.22	2.35
-do- Accum	111.70	118.40	+1.50	2.35
Managed Grth	114.60	119.90	+1.50	1.87
Managed Inc	115.70	120.60	+0.90	3.01
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD 01707 662 233				
European Pfto	135.71	144.37	+2.25	0.16
Portfolio	77.48	82.44	+1.30	1.46
UK Income Inc	88.13	93.79	+1.54	4.64
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	67.38	70.53	+0.70	2.58
-do- Accum	73.81	78.45	+0.90	2.58
British Tst	100.20	104.90†	+1.20	1.95
-do- Accum	118.80	125.40†	+3.80	1.95
Extra High Inc	70.26	73.57	+0.50	6.62
-do- Accum	144.00	150.70	+1.10	6.62
FT-SE 100 Acc	83.14	88.30	+1.90	2.94
FT-SE 100 Dist	62.49	65.34	+1.44	2.84
Gilt & Fxd Int	36.43	38.72	+0.15	6.65
-do- Accum	172.10	179.10	+0.50	6.65
High Yield	234.00	245.50	+2.90	5.12
-do- Accum	637.90	647.80	+6.00	5.12
Income	312.90	327.60†	+5.60	4.23
-do- Accum	716.00	749.70†	+12.30	4.23
Money Market UT	48.25	48.29†	+0.04	5.44
-do- Accum	80.86	80.88†	+0.06	5.44
Monthly Income	92.11	96.45†	+1.04	4.96
Unitised Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	124.50	132.40	+3.10	1.48
European Growth	123.00	130.40	-0.80	0.01
Gilt & Fixed	95.29	101.10	+0.30	5.49
Income	97.67	103.90	+1.80	2.46

Dull end to the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	470½	Allied Domecq	530	+ 5	5.6	19.2
558	390	Bulmer (HP)	554	..	2.8	17.4
146	98	Burn Stewart	128	..	5.2	25.8
467	352	Grand Met	450	- 6	4.1	19.4
538	404	Guinness	458	- ½	3.8	14.2
445	316	Highland Dist	335	..	2.9	15.2
217	157	Macallan-Glen	180	+ 1	1.0	38.7
710	600	Macdo Mtn 'A'	643	..	2.1	19.1
694	532	Matthew Clark	678	+ 4	4.1	...
148	81	Merrydown W	108	+ 1	2.3	...
2612½	1287½	SA Breweries	2307½	- 189¾	1.4	33.3

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3080⅞	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2316⅝	+ 37⅛	4.3	11.0
663	413	Abbey Nat	608	- 4	4.0	12.2
385	250	Allied Irish	358	+ 6	4.0	...
398	188	Aus New Z	394	+ 1	4.8	...
4649⅞	2531¼	Bank America	4826	- 12½		
318	191½	Bank Scotland	284½		2.7	12.6
819	557¼	Barclays	810	+ 2	3.5	11.0
488	288	Bk of Ireland	464	+ 3	3.7	9.1
525	418	Cater Allen	477		7.9	7.9
4975	2450	Citicorp	4837½	- 25		
370	218½	Close Bros	365	+ 4	3.0	18.2
£102⅝	£120⅝	Commerzbank	£152⅝	+ 10⅞	3.8	...
1376	987½	Cdt Lyn	1278⅝	+ 9⅞	0.4	...
3321⅝	2775	Deutsche Bk	3262½	- 9⅝	2.2	...
981¾	568⅝	Espirito Santo	743¼	- 6¼	4.8	10.0
1811	1138¼	Fuji Bank Y	1418	- 4	0.4	
480	335	Gerrard Nat	429	- 2	6.6	13.9
258	180	Hambros	205		4.6	...
1125	580	HSBC	1111	+ 8	3.2	14.6
1099	578	HSBC HK	1088½	+ 4½	3.3	14.1
421	228	Irish Perm	419		2.8	9.5
483	353	Joseph (L)	450		5.2	15.6
185	93	King Shaxson	156	- 3	7.2	12.1
380	308	Lloyds TSB	341½	- 6	2.9	18.0
840	479	Nat Aust Bk	832	+ 1	5.4	8.7
667	454	Nat West	608	- 8	4.2	10.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	60		2.1	24.8
630½	373½	Roy Bk Scot	579	+ 12	3.5	13.1
1478	908⅝	Schroders	1275	+ 12	1.4	18.2
1180	823½	Schroders NV	1018	+ 5	1.7	14.5
112	81	Singer & Fried	112		4.1	11.6
682½	248	Stand Chart	602	- 2	1.9	15.1
121	70	Union	100		3.8	
£169	9043⅝	Wells Fargo	£2169⅝	+ 205⅝	1.8	
317½	211	Westpac	312	- 2½	4.4	
305	200	Wintrust	305	...	4.9	17.2

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2368	425	Brit Biotech	2025	- 37		
535	103	Cantab Pharm	506	- 7		
692	233½	Celltech	516	- 5		
375	92½	Chiroscience	287			
294	91	Cortecs	287	+ 6		
969	587	Glaxo Wellcome	945	- 6	4.0	21.5
294	162	Medeva	226	- 5	2.0	14.5
260	200	[illegible]	226	- 1		
719	273	Scotia	629			
742	444	SmithKline	739½	+ 4½	2.3	22.0
736½	416	SmithKline Uts	736½	+ 9½	2.3	21.9
1337½	940	Zeneca	1249	- 10	2.8	25.5

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OTHER FINANCIAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
123	78½	Aberdeen Trst	120	+ 3	2.6	23.5
101	75	BSD	82	..	6.4	13.4
78	35	Berry Brch Nbl	36	..	9.0	10.2
300	148	Baker Inv	297	+ 7		
158	112	Brewin Dolphin	153		4.9	15.9

BRITISH FUNDS

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
109⅝	101½	Treas 15¼% 1996	101⅞	- ⅟₁₆	14.97	8.03
107¼	101⅞	Exch 13¼% 1996	101⅞	- ⅟₁₆	13.03	5.99
104	102	Conv 10% 1996	102	- ⅟₁₆	9.71	5.72
101	97¼	Treas 7% 1997	101¼		6.91	5.86
109	106	Treas 13¼% 1997	106	- ⅟₁₆	12.43	5.82
105	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104		10.05	5.85
104	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	103		8.42	5.99
117	114	Exch 15% 1997	114		13.15	6.03
107	102	Exch 9¾% 1998	106		9.17	6.10
102	96	Treas 7¼% 1998	101	+ ⅛	7.11	6.17
100	94	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100	+ ⅛	6.73	6.25
117	114	Treas 14% 1998-01	115	+ ⅛	12.09	6.59
124	120	Treas 15½% 1998	121	+ ⅛	12.76	6.36
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	113	+ ⅛	10.56	6.42
108	105	Treas 9½% 1999	107	+ ⅛	8.83	6.50
116	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	115	+ ⅛	10.61	6.56
112	105	Treas 10½% 1999	111	+ ⅛	9.45	6.62
98	89	Treas 6% 1999	97	+ ⅛	6.13	6.64
112	105	Conv 10¼% 1999	111	+ ⅛	9.21	6.67
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
108	100	Conv 9% 2000	107	+ ⅛	8.37	6.76
105	98	Treas 8% 2000	104	+ ⅛	7.66	6.53
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	122	+ ⅛	10.60	6.93
114	104	Treas 10% 2001	112 †	- ⅛	8.91	7.19
101	90	Treas 7% 2001	99	+ ⅛	7.04	7.19
114	103	Treas 9¾% 2002	112 †	+ ⅛	8.67	7.10
105	94	Treas 8% 2003	103		7.74	7.48
117	105	Treas 10% 2003	114	+ ⅛	8.72	7.37
119	110	Treas 11½% 2001-04	118	+ ⅛	9.74	7.05
83	70	Fund 3½% 1999-04	81	- ⅛	4.28	7.58
114	103	Conv 9½% 2004	111	+ ⅛	8.50	6.35
96	87	Treas 6¾% 2004	94		7.14	7.52
109	97	Treas 8½% 2005	105	- ⅛	8.04	7.60
114	103	Conv 9½% 2005	111	+ ⅛	8.50	7.81
131¼	119	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128	+ ⅛	9.73	7.43
101	94	Treas 7½% 2006	98		7.60	7.78
103	92	Treas 7¾% 2006	100		7.74	7.65
104	93	Treas 8% 2002-06	101	+ ⅛	7.88	7.73
125	113	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122		9.58	7.30
108	97	Treas 8½% 2007	105		8.07	7.88
138	126	Treas 13½% 2004-08	135	- ⅛	9.98	7.56
112	101	Treas 9% 2008	109		8.24	7.79
104	94	Treas 8% 2009	101	+ ⅛	7.92	7.83
LONGS (over 15 years)						
88	79	Treas 6¼% 2010	85	- ⅛	7.34	7.88
112	101	Conv 9% 2011	108	- ⅛	8.27	7.98
113	102	Treas 9% 2012	109	+ ⅛	8.25	7.99
82	72	Treas 5½% 2008-12	79	- ⅛	6.93	7.99
103	93	Treas 8% 2013	99		8.01	7.73
101	91	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	97	- ⅛	7.95	8.01
104	93	Treas 8% 2015	99	- ⅛	8.01	8.02
111	100	Treas 8¾% 2017	106 †	- ⅛	8.19	8.12
141	127	Exch 12% 2013-17	136	- ⅛	8.82	8.01
UNDATED						
45	40	War Ln 3½%	43	+ ⅛	8.07	...
32	28	Treas 2½%	30		8.13	
50	45	Consols 4%	48	+ ⅛	8.23	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
216	201	Treas IL 2% 1996	216	+ ⅛		0.86
113	108	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112	- ⅛	1.06	2.40
180	169	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178	- ⅛	2.82	3.36
175	161	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174	- ⅛	3.04	3.46
116	108	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	115	- ⅛	3.07	3.45
185	168	Treas IL 2% 2006	182	..	3.28	3.49
167	152	Treas IL 2½% 2009	164	..	3.31	3.56
173	157	Treas IL 2½% 2011	170 †	..	3.37	3.59
143	129	Treas IL 2½% 2013	139		3.43	3.63
152	137	Treas IL 2½% 2016	148		3.48	3.66
146	131	Treas IL 2½% 2020	142		3.53	3.68
122	109	Treas IL 2½% 2024	118	+ ⅛	3.52	3.67
120	108	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	117	+ ⅛	3.54	3.69

WATER

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
430	295	Mid Kent Hldgs	430	.	3.9	11.6
689	475	Severn Trent	644	+ 4	5.8	7.8
2400	1855	South Staffs	2395	..	3.8	13.9
555	459	South West	505	- 2	6.9	7.0
731	517	Southern	688	+ 2	5.0	8.4
575	456	Thames	539	+ 2	6.1	7.3
641	467½	Utd Utilities	598	+ 1	5.5	7.7
800	592½	Welsh	762	+ 4	6.9	9.1
109½	100½	Welsh Cm Prf	101½		9.7	..
361	256½	Wessex	336	+ 5	5.1	7.2
677½	472	Yorkshire	620	+ 7	5.7	8.1

Source: Fastel

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index

هكذا في الأصل

Comfortable win for West Indies in opening World Cup match

Lara returns in crowd-pleasing style

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD (Zimbabwe won toss): West Indies (2pts) beat Zimbabwe by six wickets

BRIAN LARA entered the World Cup yesterday and the world took notice. Before a teeming full house of 27,000, with hundreds more watching from the roofs of neighbouring houses, he ensured that West Indies won their first match in the competition with an innings of such compressed power that it amounted to an unignorable statement of intent.

"No matter what you may have heard about me in the past six months," he seemed to say, "I will defend myself with the bat." He did just that yesterday, and West Indies can only benefit. A match that lacked distinction until his arrival took flight in the last hour.

If there was a happier man than Lara, while he making an unbeaten 43, it was surely Wes Hall, the manager who has crossed swords with him, for, if Lara plays like this in the next month, West Indies may confound everyone's expecations.

Brief though his stay was, Lara positively dazzled on his return to the team after a fractious and well-chronicled winter. The crowd had waited all day to see him bat and, when he pulled Streak for the most magnificent six, a carry of 100 yards, it was the fulfilment of a deeply-held collective wish.

The ball was not particularly short, but, as he does so often, Lara swivelled and played it with a straight bat, though the stroke could more accurately be called a pull-drive. Brandes was treated no more generously. Lara drove him for two boundaries through extra cover in a lordly manner, as if to assert who was the master and who the serf.

"We want sixer," was the chant and Lara obliged. Then, after three wickets fell cheaply to Strang, the leg spinner, he ended the game in the grand manner. Strang invited the mighty drive and watched Lara belt him down the ground for four, first bounce, and clear the ropes two balls later with a lovely full swing of the bat.

For a man who betrayed signs of a limp, this was showmanship of a high order. Astle, of New Zealand, then Kirsten, of South Africa, and now Lara have set a high standard for batsmen to maintain in the coming month, which gives the likes of Tendulkar a lot to live up to.

Zimbabwe were not disgraced and certainly not Strang. He took all four West Indies wickets, including Richardson's for a sprightly 32 and Campbell, who was four runs short of his half-century when he was fooled utterly by the googly. Strang is the least regarded leg spinner in the tournament, behind Warne, Kumble and Mushtaq, but he spins the ball, gets bounce and troubled even Lara. Clearly, he will have his day.

Zimbabwe's score of 151 for nine was a disappointment on such a good pitch. Their innings fell apart when three wickets went down for six runs between the nineteenth and 22nd overs, the last two to run outs.

Campbell perished when Whittall challenged Lara to hit the stumps from mid-wicket; sadly for his partner, Lara did. Whittall himself was run out when he gambled on a second run to third man after Gibson misfielded. He dropped his bat in mid-pitch after clipping Bishop, the bowler, and returned to the pavilion looking terribly forlorn.

With wickets falling regularly, Harper was able to bowl his ten overs cheaply. Bishop was cheaper still, conceding only 18 runs, and the most successful was Ambrose, who began the day by bowling three wides in an appalling first over, and who later picked up a wicket with a slower ball that plopped on the pitch like an apple. To his great surprise, indeed the surprise of everybody, Brandes heaved it down the throat of deep square leg.

Generally speaking, it was not an outstanding West Indian performance. They missed two catches, both extremely difficult, and their ground fielding will have to improve; but they won with something to spare and, thanks to Lara, with some style. Oddly, the man-of-the-match award went to Ambrose.

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE

*†A Flower c Browne b Ambrose	3
G W Flower c and b Gibson	31
G J Whittall run out	14
A D R Campbell run out	0
A C Waller st Browne b Harper	21
C N Evans c Browne b Ambrose	21
S G Davies run out	9
H H Streak lbw b Walsh	7
P A Strang not out	22
E A Brandes c Chanderpaul b Ambrose	7
A P C Lock not out	1
Extras (lb 10, w 4, nb 1)	15
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	151

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-53, 3-56, 4-58, 5-91, 6-103, 7-115, 8-125, 9-142.

BOWLING: Ambrose 10-2-28-3, Walsh 10-3-27-1, Gibson 9-1-27-1, Bishop 10-3-18-0, Harper 10-1-30-1, Arthurton 1-0-11-0

WEST INDIES

S L Campbell b Strang	47
*R B Richardson c Campbell b Strang	32
B C Lara not out	43
S Chanderpaul b Strang	8
K L T Arthurton c Campbell b Strang	1
R A Harper not out	5
Extras (b 5, lb 3, w 10, nb 1)	19
Total (4 wkts, 29.3 overs)	155

FALL: 1-78, 2-115, 3-123, 4-136

O D Gibson, †C O Browne, I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh did not bat

BOWLING: Streak 7-0-34-0; Lock 6-0-23-0, Brandes 7-0-42-0; Whittall 2-0-8-0, Strang 7.3-1-40-4

Man of the match: C E L Ambrose.

Umpires: S Dunne (New Zealand) and S Venkataraghavan (India)

Kirsten sweeps four more runs during his record-breaking innings of 188 for South Africa in Rawalpindi yesterday

Kirsten records gap in class

RAWALPINDI (United Arab Emirates won toss): South Africa (2pts) beat United Arab Emirates by 169 runs

THE outcome of the United Arab Emirates' first World Cup appearance yesterday was all too predictable (Simon Wilde writes). They were outclassed by a ruthlessly efficient South Africa, who would have recorded the biggest margin of victory by a side batting first in the competition's history had they not taken pity on their opponents in the closing stages.

The match will be remembered for Gary Kirsten's record-breaking innings of 188 not out, the highest individual score in a World Cup match and only one run short of Vivian Richards's unbeaten 189 against England in 1984 that stands as the record for all one-day internationals.

Kirsten, who dominated South Africa's innings of 321 for two, needed to hit the last ball of the innings for four to claim the record, but managed only a two. Richards held the previous World Cup record score with 181 against Sri Lanka at Karachi in 1987, a feat accomplished off only 125 balls. Kirsten faced 159 balls, hit four sixes and 13 fours. He was dropped on 118.

UAE's openers fell to outstanding catches by McMillan and Palframan and their batting quickly capitulated. McMillan finished with the best figures, three for 11. UAE were 72 for eight before Arshad Laiq and Shaukat Dukanwala added an unbeaten 80 in less trying circumstances.

SOUTH AFRICA

A C Hudson b Samarasekera	27
G Kirsten not out	188
*W J Cronje st Abbasi b Zarawani	57
D J Cullinan not out	41
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 3, nb 3)	8
Total (2 wkts, 50 overs)	321

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60, 2-176.

J H Kallis, J N Rhodes, B M McMillan, S M Pollock, †S J Palframan, C R Matthews and A A Donald did not bat.

BOWLING: Samarasekera 9-2-39-1; Altaf 3-0-22-0; Laeeq 6-0-52-0; Dukanwala 10-0-64-0; Saeed 7-0-41-0; Zarawani 10-0-69-1; Hussain 5-0-32-0.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Azhar Saeed c McMillan b Pollock	11
G Mylvaganam c Palframan b Donald	23
Mazhar Hussain b Donald	14
V Mehra run out	2
Mohammad Aslam b McMillan	9
Arshad Laeeq not out	43
J A Samarasekera c Hudson b Donald	4
*S Zarawani c Cronje b McMillan	0
†Imtiaz Abbasi c Palframan b McMillan	1
S Dukanwala not out	40
Extras (w 3, nb 2)	5
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	152

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-42, 3-46, 4-60, 5-62, 6-68, 7-70, 8-72.

Shazad Altaf did not bat.

BOWLING: Pollock 9-2-28-1; Matthews 10-0-39-0; Donald 10-0-21-3; Cronje 4-0-17-0; McMillan 8-1-11-3; Kallis 6-0-27-0; Kirsten 3-0-9-0.

Man of the match: G Kirsten.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and V K Ramaswamy (India).

A slow bowler turning into money-spinner

The hottest properties in the cricket world may be Brian Lara and Shane Warne, but Paul Adams, South Africa's whirling dervish, is rapidly rising up the table. Four months ago, he was struggling for a place in the Western Province team; now, he has contracts that will bring him in a million rand (about £200,000) over the next three years, quite apart from anything that he receives in appearance money and win bonuses.

By signing endorsements for cricket equipment, sports footwear, fast-food, insurance, casual clothes, formal footwear, soft drinks and supermarket products, he has put himself up with the highest earners in the South Africa team. Adams, a Cape Coloured, turned 19 last month and is the youngest Test cricketer in his country's history.

Will the limelight and lucre go to his head, as some say has happened with Lara? Not according to his agent. "Paul cannot spend his life running from one studio to another," he said from Cape Town yesterday. "He has got to spend time growing up. We do not want him going through the same things as Lara, or to a lesser extent Jonty Rhodes after the last World Cup. Jonty was bombarded. In any case, Paul is a very laid-back guy. He wants to carry on studying, in sports management, so that he has a career after cricket."

Nor was Adams's upbringing as deprived as many reports have suggested. He comes from a middle-class family that was prosperous enough to give him a good academic education through the "white" school system — a system that, in the process, nurtured his cricketing talent. His father is not a "humble fisherman", but the captain of a trawler.

Simon Wilde's WORLD CUP EXTRAS

Worth the wait

Today, against New Zealand in Vadodara (formerly Baroda), Holland play the first World Cup match in their history. Steven Lubbers, their captain, has waited a long time this moment. He is 42, has won more than 100 caps since first appearing for his country in 1972 and, an ambition realised, plans to retire after the tournament.

Lubbers is the longest-serving member of the World Cup cast. His closest rival is Javed Miandad, 38, who has racked up more than 350 appearances in Test matches and one-day internationals.

Miandad, though, has sung more last songs than Frank Sinatra. He last played for Pakistan more than two years ago and has effectively come out of retirement to become the first man to take part in six World Cups.

First forfeit

How can anyone have the temerity to forfeit a World Cup match?, screamed the organisers after Australia and West Indies refused to play in Colombo. Better ask the Sri Lankans. They were the first team to do it, in a group match of the ICC Trophy — the feeder competition. On June 4, 1979, at Kenilworth, on political grounds, they forfeited the points rather than meet Israel. Note: Sri Lanka still won the Trophy in a canter.

Head examined

The World Cup's first booby prize goes to Sultan Zarawani, the intrepid captain of United Arab Emirates, who went to the wicket yesterday to face his first ball from Allan Donald without a helmet. The consequence was all too predictable. The first ball was short, fast and located Zarawani's forehead. Out soon after for a glorious duck, Zarawani's next port of call after the pavilion was the nearest hospital for a scan, which gave him the all-clear. Still, at least Zarawani has the advantage over Donald in one respect. He is the only man in the World Cup who drives a Lamborghini.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Cup
Fifth round
(-) * Huddersfield v Wimbledon
(-) * Ipswich v Aston Villa
(-) * Swindon v Southampton

FA Carling Premiership
(-) Chelsea v West Ham
(-) Middlesbrough v Bolton
(-) Sheff Wed v QPR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	25	19	3	3	49	20	60
Man Utd	26	15	6	5	47	29	51
Liverpool	26	14	7	5	50	22	49
A Villa	25	13	6	6	34	18	45
Tottenham	26	11	9	6	33	25	42
Blackburn	26	12	5	9	40	28	41
Arsenal	26	11	8	7	34	25	41
Everton	26	11	7	8	39	28	40
Nottm F	25	10	10	5	35	35	40
Chelsea	26	10	9	7	30	26	39
Leeds	25	10	5	10	31	37	35
Middlesbro	26	9	6	11	27	33	33
West Ham	25	9	5	11	27	35	32
Sheff Wed	25	7	8	10	35	39	29
Southampton	25	5	10	10	25	36	25
Wimbledon	25	6	6	13	35	52	24
Coventry	26	5	9	12	33	49	24
Man City	25	5	9	11	16	35	24
QPR	25	5	3	17	19	40	18
Bolton	26	3	4	19	24	51	13

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
(—) Charlton v Sheffield Utd
(1) Crystal Palace v Watford
(—) Grimsby v Reading
(—) Leicester v Port Vale
(2) Luton v Millwall
(—) Norwich v Wolverhampton
(3) Portsmouth v Sunderland
(4) Southend v Derby
(5) Stoke v Birmingham
(6) West Bromwich v Tranmere

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby	29	14	10	5	45	31	52
Charlton	28	11	10	5	41	29	43
Huddersfld	29	12	9	8	35	32	45
Southend	29	12	8	9	34	35	44
Sunderland	28	11	11	6	31	23	44
Barnsley	29	11	10	8	40	44	43
Stoke	28	11	9	8	40	34	42
Millwall	31	10	11	10	31	39	41
Ipswich	28	10	10	8	50	41	40
Leicester	28	10	10	8	42	39	40
Portsmth	31	10	9	12	49	48	39
Norwich	30	10	9	11	40	37	39
Birmingham	27	10	9	8	38	37	39
Grimsby	29	9	11	9	35	37	38
C Palace	27	8	12	7	32	33	36
Oldham	28	8	11	9	37	31	35
Tranmere	26	9	8	9	37	33	35
Wolves	28	7	11	10	35	37	32
Reading	28	7	11	10	33	36	32
Luton	28	8	8	12	23	40	32
Port Vale	28	7	10	11	35	40	31
Sheff Utd	30	7	9	14	37	47	30
West Brom	28	8	4	16	33	49	28
Watford	27	5	10	12	30	36	25

Second division
(7) Bournemouth v Blackpool
(—) Brentford v Bristol City
(—) Brighton v Crewe
(8) Bristol Rovers v Rotherham
(9) Burnley v York
(10) Chesterfield v Wycombe
(—) Oxford Utd v Walsall
(—) Peterborough v Carlisle
(11) Stockport v Notts County
(—) Swansea v Hull (12.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	27	16	8	3	45	18	56
Blackpool	28	14	9	5	45	25	51
Crewe	25	15	5	5	48	22	50
Notts Co	25	13	8	4	36	19	47
Chesfld	25	12	7	6	39	27	43
Bradford	29	12	5	12	33	45	41
Bristol R	28	11	8	9	35	37	41
Wrexham	27	9	13	5	40	31	40
Stockport	29	10	9	10	38	32	39
Shrewsbury	29	11	6	12	38	40	39
Wycombe	28	9	12	7	35	30	39
Burnley	27	10	8	9	39	35	38
Bournemth	28	11	5	12	35	42	38
Oxford Utd	27	10	8	9	34	27	38
Bristol City	29	9	10	10	30	37	37
Walsall	26	9	9	8	28	20	36
Rotherham	28	9	8	11	35	41	35
Peterboro	26	7	9	10	36	41	30
Brentford	27	8	6	13	24	33	30
Carlisle	28	6	10	12	34	43	28
York	25	7	5	13	29	41	26
Brighton	28	6	7	15	26	43	25
Swansea	29	5	9	15	28	53	24
Hull	27	2	10	15	20	47	16

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Maldon; Brentwood v Southend Manor; East Ham v Romford; Ford United v Basildon Utd; Great Wakering v Hullbridge Sports; Sawbridgeworth v Concord; Stansted v Eton Manor

Third division
(12) Barnet v Wigan
(13) Bury v Lincoln
(14) Chester v Scunthorpe
(15) Darlington v Mansfield
(16) Doncaster v Plymouth
(17) Exeter v Cambridge Utd
(18) Gillingham v Hereford
(19) Leyton Orient v Northampton
(20) Preston v Colchester
(21) Rochdale v Fulham
(22) Scarborough v Cardiff
(23) Torquay v Hartlepool

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	29	17	8	4	38	10	59
Preston	28	13	12	3	54	25	51
Chester	27	12	8	7	46	35	44
Darlington	28	11	10	7	32	27	43
Plymouth	29	11	9	9	46	36	42
Colchester	29	10	12	7	40	35	42
Doncaster	28	12	6	10	34	37	42
Wigan	28	11	8	9	37	34	41
Bury	27	10	10	7	31	32	40
Northmptn	28	10	9	9	30	26	39
Barnet	30	8	13	9	36	34	37
Scunthrpe	27	9	9	9	40	34	36
Cambs Utd	28	9	8	11	40	45	35
Rochdale	28	9	8	11	37	34	35
Exeter	29	7	14	8	30	33	35
L Orient	29	9	7	13	30	33	34
Mansfield	29	6	14	9	35	43	32
Cardiff	28	8	8	12	28	36	32
Hereford	25	7	10	8	30	32	31
Scarboro	29	6	13	10	30	38	31
Hartlpool	27	7	10	10	29	33	31
Lincoln	29	7	10	12	27	43	31
Fulham	28	5	13	10	33	40	28
Torquay	28	4	9	15	25	51	21

Vauxhall Conference
(24) Bromsgrove v Macclesfield
(25) Dagenham and Red v Stalybridge
(26) Hednesford v Bath
(27) Morecambe v Altrincham
(28) Northwich v Halifax
(29) Runcorn v Farnborough
(30) Slough v Kettering
(31) Southport v Woking
(32) Stevenage v Gateshead
(33) Telford v Dover
(34) Welling v Kidderminster

Beazer Homes League
Premier division
(35) Crawley v Baldock
(36) Gravesend and N'flt v Atherstone
(37) Gresley v Dorchester
(38) Hastings v Halesowen
(39) Ilkeston v Merthyr
(40) Newport AFC v Sudbury Town
(41) Rushden and D v Cheltenham
(42) Salisbury v Burton
(43) VS Rugby v Stafford
(44) Worcester v Chelmsford

UniBond League
Premier division
(45) Accrington Stanley v Gainsborough
(46) Bishop Auckland v Barrow
(47) Chorley v Buxton
(48) Colwyn Bay v Boston
(49) Droylsden v Spennymoor
(50) Emley v Winsford
(51) Guiseley v Knowsley
(52) Hyde v Frickley
(53) Leek v Blyth Spartans
(—) Marine v Witton
(—) Matlock v Bamber Bridge

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fourth round
(—) Airdrie v Forfar
(—) Dundee Utd v Dunfermline
(—) Celtic v Raith
(—) Kilmarnock v Hearts
(—) St Johnstone v Montrose
(—) Stenhousemuir v Caledonian T
(—) Stirling v Aberdeen

Bell's Scottish League
First division
(—) Clydebank v Dumbarton
Second division
(54) Queen of South v Stranraer
Third division
(55) Albion v Cowdenbeath
(56) Alloa v Arbroath
(57) Brechin v Ross County
(58) East Stirling v Livingston

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Barkingside, Brook House v Tottenham Omada, Cockfosters v Brimsdown, Corinthian-Casuals v Hillingdon Boro, Croydon v Beaconsfield SYCOB, St Margaretsbury v Willesden (Hawkeye), Tufnell Park v Hanwell; Woodwich v Waltham Abbey

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor v Ards; Crusaders v Cliftonville, Glenavon v Portadown, Linfield v Glentoran

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Bilston v Tamworth, Bridgnorth v Leicester United, Buckingham Town v Sutton Coldfield; Dudley Town v King's Lynn; Hinckley Town v Evesham, Moor Green v Bury Town; Nuneaton v Grantham, Paget R v Rothwell, R C Warwick v Corby; Stourbridge v Bedworth. Southern division: Ashford v Fisher 93, Braintree v Bashley, Cinderford v Havant, Clevedon v Newport IoW, Margate v Weston-super-Mare, Tonbridge Angels v Erith and Belvedere, Waterlooville v Sittingbourne, Weymouth v Fareham, Witney v Trowbridge, Yate v Fleet Town

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley v Boreham Wood, Dulwich v Enfield, Harrow v Grays, Hendon v Chertsey, Molesey v Hitchin, Purfleet v Carshalton, Sutton United v St Albans, Walton and Hersham v Hayes, Worthing v Bishop's Stortford, Yeading v Aylesbury, Yeovil v Kingstonian. First division: Aldershot Town v Staines, Barking v Wokingham, Basingstoke v Maidenhead United, Billericay v Leyton Pennant, Bognor Regis v Abingdon Town, Chesham v Wembley, Marlow v Berkhamsted, Ruislip Manor v Thame, Tooting and Mitcham v Oxford City, Uxbridge v Heybridge Swifts, Whyteleafe v Barton Rovers. Second division: Canvey Island v Edgware, Chalfont St Peter v Saffron Walden, Cheshunt v Hampton, Collier Row v Dorking, Hemel Hempstead v Banstead, Hungerford v Leatherhead, Tilbury v Bedford Town, Ware v Egham, Witham v Met Police, Wivenhoe v Croydon. Third division: Camberley v Harlow, Clapton v Lewes, E Thurrock v Hertford, Horsham v Flackwell Hth, Kingsbury v Southall, Leighton v Northwood, Tring v Cove, Wealdstone v Harefield, Windsor and Eton v Aveley

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton United v Netherfield, Atherton LR v Bradford Park Avenue, Congleton v Lancaster, Fleetwood v Farsley Celtic, Great Harwood v Harrogate Town, Gretna v Curzon Ashton, Leigh v Worksop, Radcliffe v Alfreton, Whitley Bay v Warrington, Workington v Eastwood Town

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Llanelli, Briton Ferry v Connah's Quay, Caersws v Ton Pentre (12.30), Conwy v Bangor City (2.30), Ebbw Vale v Flint Town, Inter Cardiff v Holywell, Newtown v Afan Lido, Caernarfon v Rhyl.

WELSH CUP: Quarter-finals: Cwmbran v Porthmadog (2.30), Oswestry Town v Barry (2.0), Pontypridd T v Llansantffraid (1.0)

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v DCA Basingstoke, Bedfont v Cranleigh, Chipstead v Ashford, Eton Wick v Cobham, Farnham v Walton Casuals, Feltham v Merstham, Hartley Wintney v Raynes Park Vale, Netherne v Godalming and G, Sandhurst v Peppard, Viking Sp v Horley, Westfield v Reading.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Letchworth v Harpenden, Brache Sparta v Arlesey Town, Dunstable v Hoddesdon, Royston v Welwyn Garden; Potters Bar v Biggleswade; Buckingham Athletic v Langford; Milton Keynes v Hatfield; London Colney v Toddington

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Calne, Bridport v Odd Down; Brislington v Elmore; Bristol Manor Farm v Taunton; Chippenham v Paulton R; Crediton v Backwell; Mangotsfield v Barnstaple, Tiverton v Frome, Westbury v Torrington

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard v Newmarket; Diss v Halstead, Fakenham v Hadleigh Utd, Felixstowe v Clacton, Soham v Lowestoft, Stowmarket v Sudbury, Sudbury Res v Harwich and Parkeston, Watton v Tiptree, Woodbridge v March, Wroxham v Wisbech

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Christchurch, Totton v Andover, B A T v Bemerton Heath, Bournemouth v Gosport, Brockenhurst v Ryde Sports, Cowes Sports v Whitchurch, Downton v Swanage and Herston, East Cowes v Wimborne, Petersfield v Eastleigh, Portsmouth v Thatcham

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Wick, Crowborough v Ringmer, Eastbourne Town v Hassocks, Langney Sports v Southwick, Mile Oak v Hailsham, Oakwood v Arundel, Peacehaven and Telscombe v Pagham, Portfield v Three Bridges, Whitehawk v Horsham Y M C A. John O'Hara League Cup: Quarter-final: Shoreham v Stamco

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Canterbury, Corinthian v Dartford, Crockenhill v Folkestone Invicta, Deal v Beckenham, Greenwich v Furness, Ramsgate v Herne Bay, Sheppey v Hythe, Slade Green v Thamesmead, Tunbridge Wells v Cray, Whitstable v Faversham.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United v North Leigh, Almondsbury v Swindon Supermarine, Bicester v Brackley, Burnham v Lambourn Sports, Cirencester v Highworth, Endsleigh v Kintbury, Fairford v Banbury, Shortwood v Didcot. Premier division Cup: Third round: Tuffley v Carterton

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe v St Neots, Holbeach v Potton, Kempston v Mirrlees Blackstone, Newport Pagnell v Spalding, Raunds v Bourne, Stamford v Northampton Spencer, S and L Corby v Boston, Stotfold v Long Buckby, Wellingborough v Eynesbury, Wootton v Desborough.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Fourth round: Barclays Bank v Old Ignatians, Civil Service v Lloyds Bank, Old Actonians Association v Old Tiffinians, Ware Green v Old Tenisonians

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND FOOTBALL ALLIANCE: Barwell v Chasetown; Blakenhall v Oldbury U; Boldmere St M v Shifnal Town, Halesowen H v Stratford Town; Pershore Town v Shepshed D; Rocester v Hinckley Athletic, Rushall O v Sandwell; West Midlands Police v Stapenhill; Willenhall v Bolehall Swifts.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Ansells v Handrahan Timbers; Chelmsley v Bloxwich; Coleshill v Coventry Sphinx; Northfield v Highgate; Shirley v Kings Heath; Southam v Olton Royale; Studley BKL v Mar KA; Upton v Massey Ferguson; Wellesbourne v Alvechurch Villa. President's Cup: Third round: Colletts Green v Newhall

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley Town v Westfields; Darlaston v Bloxwich S; Ettingshall H T v Brierley Hill T; Lichfield C v Pelsall V; Ludlow T v Malvern T, Lye Town v Wednesfield; Stafford T v Walsall Wood, Stourport S v Wolverhampton C, Tividale v Hill Top R

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashfield v Ossett Albion; Belper Town v Liversedge, Brigg Town v Armthorpe Welfare, Hallam v Maltby MW, Hatfield Main v Sheffield; Hucknall v Denaby, Ossett Town v Glasshoughton Welfare; Pickering v Goole, Stocksbridge PS v Arnold.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Burscough, Clitheroe v Trafford; Darwen v Newcastle Town; Eastwood H v Holker Old Boys; Flixton v Maine Road, Glossop North End v Rossendale; Nantwich v Chadderton, Penrith v Kidsgrove, Prescot v Mossley; Salford v Blackpool Rovers; St Helens v Skelmersdale.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Consett v R T M Newcastle, Crook v Chester-le-Street; Durham v Seaham Red Star, Guisborough v Bedlington Terriers; Murton v Billingham, Shildon v Ferryhill, Stockton v Dunston Federation, West Auckland v Peterlee, Whickham v Eppleton CW; Whitby v Tow Law.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: McEwan's Lager North Cup: Second round: Nairn County v Lossiemouth, Rothes v Fort William.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Chelsea v West Ham, Fulham v Charlton Athletic, Gillingham v Arsenal, Ipswich v Tottenham Hotspur, Millwall v Portsmouth; Norwich v Watford; Queens Park Rangers v Leyton Orient, Southend v Cambridge Utd

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldenhamians v Cholmeleians, Etonians v Carthusians; Malvernians v Chigwellians. First division: Ardinians v Brentwoods; Harrovians v Wellingburians, Salopians v Haberdashers, Widdians v Bradfieldians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v Old Meadonians, Latymer v Clapham; Old Danes v Old Hamptonians; Old Isleworthians v Old Aloysians. Senior first division: Old Kingsburians v Shene; Old Salvatorians v Old Vaughanians; Old Suttonians v Old Wilsonians; Phoenix v Old Manorians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carshalton v Kew Association; Nat West Bank v Winchmore Hill; Norsemen v Crouch End Vampires; Old Esthameians v West Wickham; South Bank v East Barnet OG. Second division: Alexandra Park v Polytechnic, Lensbury v Old Latymerians; Midland Bank v Old Parmiterians; Old Bromleians v Old Parkonians; Old Lyonians v Old Stationers. Third division: Bank of England v Old Salesians; Broomfield v Alleyn OB, Merton v Southgate Olympic; Old Westminster Citizens v Cuaco; Reigate Priory v Ibis.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Hale End Athletic v Old Grammarians; Nottsborough v St Mary's College; Southgate County v Old Owens; Ulysses v Parkfield; Witan v Albanian. Senior two: Hadley v Old Finchleians; Mill Hill Village v Corinthian-Casuals, Old Bealonians v Honourable Artillery Company; UCL Academicals v City of London.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30 unless stated): English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Quarter-final: East Berks v Worthing (Bracknell Sports Centre, 1.30). Southern Counties Cup: Gravesham v Bexley. Charlton Cup: Aldershot v Havant. Kay Trophy: Hackney v Woolwich. London Gill Cup: Croydon v Hackney. Essex Smeathers Trophy: Havering v Waltham Forest. English Johnson Cup: Newham v Basildon. Essex Finch Shield: Redbridge v Barking. Goodhand Trophy: Nottingham v Grimsby: Derby v South Notts. Alder Cup: Sefton v South Cheshire. Woodward Cup: Chorley v Kirkby Knowsley. English Schools Snickers under-19 trophy: Hills Road College, Cambridgeshire v Suffolk College (1.30). Inter-Association: Leeds v Rotherham, Luton v West London. English Schools southeast England sevens championship (Luton, 11.0). English Schools Wagon Wheels five-a-side indoor championship: Boys: Eastern England (Bury St Edmunds). East Midlands (Scunthorpe, noon), North East England (Cramlington 11.0). Girls: Midlands (Stourbridge, 11.0). Kent six-a-side championships (Eltham, 9.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Hemel Hempstead v Woolston (2.30); Haworth v Leigh Miners Welfare (2.30).

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Second round: Broughton Red Rose v Barrow Island, Crosfields v Worth Village, Frizington v Distington, Glasson Rangers v Millom; Haydock v Westfield Welfare; Hensingham v Rose Bridge; Eingworth v Wigan St Judes A, Lowca v Queensbury; Millom v Park Amateurs, Prestwich v Brassmoulders, Roose v Thornhill, Seaton v Orrell St James, Waterhead v Egremont; West Bowling v Widnes S. Bedes. Westgate Redoubt v Moorends. Third round: Beverley v West Hull, Blackbrook v Wath Brow Hornets, B R K v Kells, Ellenborough v Normanton; Embassy v Wigan St Patricks; Featherstone M W v Clayton, Halton Simms Cross v Siddal; Keighley Albion v Dewsbury Celtic; Mayfield v Stanley Rangers, Middleton v Hull Dockers; Mysons v Eccles, New Earswick AB v Saddleworth, Ovenden v Dalton, Queens v Blackpool Stanley; Shaw Cross v Leeds Social; Stanningley v Wigan St Judes; Walney Central v Lock Lane; Walnut Warriors v East Leeds; Widnes St Maries v Underbank.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby v Leopards (8.0); Leicester v Doncaster (7.30); Manchester v Hemel (7.30). Newcastle v Worthing (7.30), Thames Valley v Birmingham (8.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Coventry v Cardiff, Oldham and Rochdale v Bury, Ware v Stockton. Women: First division: Barking and Dagenham v Thames Valley; Birmingham v Northampton; London v Tyne and Wear; Plymouth City v Ipswich. Rhondda v Sheffield.

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Heaton Mersey v Cheadle; Mellor v Cheadle Hulme; Poynton v Timperley; Stockport v Sheffield Steelers

SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckhurst Hill v Bath; Hitchin v Beckenham; London Univ v Hillcroft.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Five nations' championship
France v Ireland
(at Parc des Princes, 2.0)
Wales v Scotland
(at Cardiff Arms Park, 3.0)

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Bath v Wasps (3.0)
Gloucester v Orrell (3.0)
Leicester v West Hartlepool (3.0)
Sale v Bristol (3.0)
Saracens v Harlequins

Second division
London Irish v Nottingham (3.0)
London Scottish v Wakefield (3.0)
Moseley v Waterloo (3.0)
Newcastle Gosforth v Blackheath (3.0)
Northampton v Bedford P

Third division
Coventry v Fylde (3.0)
Harrogate v Rotherham (2.15)
Otley v Richmond (2.15)
Reading v Rosslyn Park (2.15)
Rugby v Morley (3.0)

Fourth division
Exeter v Plymouth (3.0)
Havant v Aspatria
Liverpool St Helens v Redruth
London Welsh v Leeds
Walsall v Clifton (2.15)

Fifth division north
Birmingham Solihull v Wharfedale (2.15)
Kendal v Broughton Park
Nuneaton v Preston Grasshoppers
Sheffield v Lichfield
Stoke v Sandal
Worcester v Winnington Park

Fifth division south
Askeans v Henley
Barking v Tabard
Berry Hill v North Walsham
Camberley v Met Police
High Wycombe v Cheltenham
Lydney v Weston-super-Mare

MIDLANDS: Barkers Butts v Mansfield; Burton v Broadstreet; Camp Hill v Leighton Buzzard, Leamington v Westleigh; Stafford v Hereford; Whitchurch v Syston.

LONDON: Basingstoke v Sudbury; Charlton Park v Sutton and Epsom; Guildford and Godalming v Ruislip; Harlow v Staines; Old Colfeians v Southend; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Ealing.

NORTH: Hull Ionians v Bridlington; Manchester v Widnes; Middlesbrough v Tynedale; Stockton v Bradford and Bingley; Wigton v Macclesfield; West Park Bramhope v Huddersfield.

SOUTH WEST: Bridgwater v Newbury; Brixham v Torquay; Cinderford v Maidenhead; Gloucester Old Boys v Matson; Salisbury v Barnstaple; Taunton v St Ives.

PILKINGTON SHIELD: Sixth round: South: Old Bristolians v Old Ashmoleans

Club match
Stourbridge v Wolverhampton

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Havant v St Albans (Havant College 2.30).

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford v Bedford Town; Bury St Edmunds v Colchester, Cambridge City v Ipswich; Cambridge University v Peterborough Town; Redbridge and Ilford v Chelmsford. Premier division B: Dereham v Brentwood; Norwich City v Luton Town, Old Southendian v Clacton; Romford v Westcliff, Stevenage v Sudbury.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford v Maidenhead; Bournemouth v Winchester; Chichester v Old Kingstonians; High Wycombe v Gore Court; Lewes v Newbury; Lions v Oxford Hawks; Old Walcountians v Beckenham; Wimbledon v Fareham; Woking v Anchorians; Wokingham v Spencer. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Petersfield, Camberley v Old Cranleighans; Dulwich v Cheam; Epsom v Blandford, Old Edwardians v Oxted; Old Whitgiftians v London University; Oxshott v Southampton. Solent HC v Old Mid-Whitgiftians; Purley v Basingstoke; Walton and Weybridge v Andover. Kent/Sussex: Bexleyheath v Marden Russets; Bexley Invicta v Herne Bay, Blackheath v Belvedere; Bognor v Crawley, Brighton v Middleton; Old Beccehamians v Old Williamsonians; Sevenoaks v Mid Sussex; Tulse Hill v Old Holcombeians; Tunbridge Wells v Horsham, Worthing v Old Bordenians. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Sunbury; Bracknell v Ramgarhia; City of Oxford v OMT, Eastcote v PHC Chiswick; Harrow v NPL, Hayes v Marlow, HCC v Mill Hill; Headington v Richings Park; Hendon v Milton Keynes; Staines v ETESSA.

DTZ LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Hampton-in-Arden, Bloxwich v Loughborough Students; John Player v Bridgnorth. North Notts v Khalsa; Nottingham v Harborne.

NORTH: First division: Ben Rhydding v Formby; Harrogate v Southport; Neston v Warrington; Norton v Sheffield Bankers; Timperley v Halifax. Second division: Alderley Edge v Wakefield; Bowdon v Stockton; Chester v Northern; Durham University v Knutsford; Ramgarhia v York; Swalwell v Blackburn; Tynemouth v Wigan.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton v Slough; Hightown v Balsam Leicester; Ipswich v Doncaster; Sutton Canada Life v Bracknell. First division: Blueharts v Bradford Swithenbank; Canterbury v Wimbledon; Chelmsford v Trojans; Exmouth v Sunderland Bedans. Second division: Aldridge v Loughborough, Olton v St Albans; Reading v Woking; Sherwood v Ealing.

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bexleyheath v Harleston; Cambs City v Ipswich; Loughtonians v Saracens; WGC v Sevenoaks. Midlands: Hampton v Ramblers; Peverel v Leicester; Pickwick v Bedford; Tamworth v Kettering. North: Carlisle v Poynton, Liverpool v Sheffield; Newcastle v Blackburn; York v Don Valley. South: Dulwich v West Witney; Hampstead v Solon; Hendon v Winchester; Winchmore Hill v Portsmouth; Worthing v Camberley. West: Cheltenham v Wimborne; Colwall v Yate; East Glos v Redland; Leominster v St Austell.

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Manchester United Salford v Sheffield; Newcastle (Staffs) v Tooting Aquila; Solent v Wessex; Warwick Rigs v Whitefield; Reebok Liverpool City v Team Mizuno Malory Lewisham; KLEA Leeds v Polonia Ealing.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships (Preston).

SNOOKER: Sweater Shop International Open (Swindon).

TENNIS: LTA men's satellite tournament (Chigwell), LTA women's satellite tournament (Sheffield).

THE TIMES

RACING
Commentary
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FOOTBALL
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CRICKET
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TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Cup
Fourth round
* Shrewsbury v Liverpool (11.0)
Fifth round
Manchester Utd v Manchester City (4.0)

Bell's Scottish League
Second division
Clyde v Berwick

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division (3.15) Derry v Sligo, UCD v Dundalk

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE, National league: Villa Aztecs v Millwall Lionesses, Wolverhampton v Wembley

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP Semi-final: Croydon v Doncaster Belles

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Sixth round: Ilkeston v Arsenal, Huddersfield v Liverpool, Whitehawk v Ipswich

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Garswood St Helens v Sheffield Wednesday, Kidderminster Har v RTM Newcastle. Southern division: Brentford v Leyton Orient, Brighton and Hove v Berkhamsted, Oxford Utd v Wimbledon, Town and County v Three Bridges

UNDER-16 INTERNATIONAL: England v Ireland (at Lilleshall)

RUGBY UNION

Youth international
Wales v Italy
(at Aberavon, 2.30)
Women's international
Wales v Scotland
(at Bridgend, 2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fifth round
Dewsbury v Widnes (3.5)
Halifax v Sheffield (3.0)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Sheffield (5.0); Doncaster v London (5.30), Leopards v Thames Valley (5.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Brixton v Plymouth, Crystal Palace v Solent, Nottingham v Bury.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cannock v Trojans (Morris Ground 2.30), Canterbury v Guildford (Polo Farm 1.0), East Grinstead v Indian Gymkhana (Saint Hill 2.0); Hounslow v Southgate (Dukes Meadow Chiswick 2.0); HGC v Stourport (Orchard Park 2.0); Surbiton v Reading (Sugden Road 2.30); Teddington v Bournville (Teddington School 1.30). Second division: Beeston v Brooklands (Highfields Nottingham 2.0); Bromley v Hampstead and Westminster (Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington 1.30); Crostyn v Sheffield (Chigwell 1.0); Doncaster v Edgbaston (Barnethorpe 2.0); Firebrands v [illegible] (Clifton College 2.0); Gloucester City v Richmond (Rock Court 1.30); Harleston Magpies v Oxford University (Shotford Heath 2.0); Isca v Slough (Exeter School 2.0); Olton and West Warwickshire v City of Portsmouth (Grange Road Solihull 2.0)

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION TROPHY. Second round: Aldridge v Jersey, N Staffs v De Montfort University

ALL ENGLAND WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION PLATE: Second round: Atalanta v Wycombe, Rye, Basildon v Chiswick; Bexleyheath v Hampstead and Westminster; Blossomfield v Oxford Hawks, Bognor Regis v Folkestone Optimists, Bridgnorth v Shipston-on-Stour; Cheam v Ranelagh; Cheshunt v Haverhill; Dereham v Crostyn; Eastcote v Worthing; Epsom v Polytechnic; Gloucester City v Shrewsbury; Horsham v Fleet; Hounslow v Bishops Stortford; Kettering v Worcester Norton; Lillington Warwick v Disley; Morpeth v Stockton; Nelson v Chester; Neston v Lichfield; Newton Abbot v Falmouth; Norton v Welton; Old De Ferrars v Newbury; Pelicans v Redhill; St Austell v Yate; St Ives v Southend; Staines v Anchorians; Tunbridge Wells v Brighton and Hove; West Bromwich v Matlock Baileans; West Witney v Northampton; Wigan v Sheffield; Wootton Bassett v Bath; Worksop v Lincoln Imps.

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Zone one: Cumbria v LCL; Cheshire v Man Lge; LCL v Cheshire; Cumbria v Man Lge (Ulverston). Durham v Yorks; Sheffield Lge v Durham; Yorks v Sheff Lge (Middlesbrough). Zone two: Dorset v Somerset (Bournemouth).

VOLLEYBALL

KNOCK-OUT CUP: Semi-final: Ashcombe Guildford v London Malory; Britannia Music City v Manchester Utd Salford.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships (Preston).

SNOOKER: Sweater Shop International Open (Swindon).

TENNIS. LTA men's satellite tournament (Chigwell).

France under pressure in Paris

Ireland look for new direction from Humphreys

FROM JOHN HOPKINS IN PARIS

THE difference that one match in the five nations' rugby union championship makes was emphasised beneath the grey, sunless skies here yesterday. France, after concluding their preparations for the game against Ireland today, are on the back foot once again. The criticisms are coming at them thick and fast, as they do in France, where intrigue, rumours, gossip and speculation are all part of everyday life.

There have been attacks by players, spectators and officials on Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach. A headline in one paper yesterday suggested that Skrela's honeymoon period is over — *"L'etat de Grâce est Terminé"*. Players have turned on one another, too. "The forwards did not compete [in Scotland] and win the ball; the backs did not run and tackle," Thomas Castaignède said. "We were embarrassing."

Nobody has been able to explain away France's apparent lapse at Murrayfield two weeks ago, and, though it was only their second defeat in the nine games since Skrela took over from Pierre Berbizier after the World Cup, it has cast France into a mood of gloom and introspection. Skrela went closest to defining what went wrong for his team in Scotland earlier this month. "Someone with more hunger than skill is stronger than someone with more skill than hunger," he said.

The trouble with this eloquent explanation is that it demeans the Scots, who, on the day, outplayed France. That victory meant that Scotland, not France, were on the trail of the grand slam. France, favourites before the competition began and even stronger favourites after they had beaten England, were left rather like victims of a daylight mugging; sitting on the pavement rubbing their heads and trying to remember what had happened and what had gone wrong.

After that performance, changes were made in the France team and three men who had never before played in the five nations' championship were selected to play against Ireland — Richard Castel, the flanker, Olivier Campan, in the centre, and Franck Tournaire, a prop. Only seven of the France team played in the championship last season, and only nine remain from the side that beat Ireland in the World Cup quarter-finals in Durban last June. Castel, a beefy flanker, is described as *"un bulldozer"*. "I have an Irish temperament, I must use it," Castel said.

The backs have been reshuffled. Gone is Philippe Carbonneau and in comes Guy Accoceberry, the fifth scrum half used by France in as many years. Castaignède moves to stand-off half, Thierry Lacroix to the centre. As both the half backs are chemists, France will expect some alchemy from them.

Ireland are attempting to end one of the worst of all sporting records. They have won only once in Paris since 1952, and that was in 1972. They have not scored a try in Paris since 1980 and not beaten France in Ireland since 1983. France have scored 26 tries against Ireland since 1980, including what has become known as the "try of the thousand passes", in 1986. This move involved 13 Frenchmen handling the ball, three of them touching it four times each, before Sella scored.

Under Skrela's coaching, France have averaged three tries each match and clearly intend to carry on moving the ball as much as possible. As Ireland appear prepared to do the same, the chances of a fast, open match are good. At stand-off half, Ireland have selected David Humphreys, of Oxford University, who has been described as a "little gem" by Clive Woodward, the coach of London Irish. "He's got it, big time," Woodward said.

Humphreys, who makes his Ireland debut, scored all of Oxford University's 19 points in the thrilling University match before Christmas. He seems cool and calm on the eve of what will surely be an intimidating test. Jerôme Riondet played alongside Humphreys at Oxford and has reported to his countrymen that "Humphreys can do everything, plus he is clairvoyant".

Jeremy Davidson and Peter Clohessy both reported fit after Ireland's light training session yesterday morning. Davidson's eye and Clohessy's back survived 25 minutes of touch rugby and 20 lineouts without damage.

Logic and form are turned upside down in matches involving these countries more often than any others. So it is safe to ignore all known form and predict that Ireland will win. Such a win would prompt considerable celebrations by the Irish in the traffic-filled streets of this city tonight and tomorrow morning. It would have been a long time, after all.

Peace emblems, page 2

FIVE NATIONS'

CHAMPIONSHIP

FRANCE		IRELAND
J-L Sadourny (Colomiers)	15	*J E Staples (Harlequins)
E Ntamack (Toulouse)	14	R M Wallace (Garryowen)
T Lacroix (Dax)	13	J C Bell (Northampton)
O Campan (Agen)	12	K P McQuilkin (Bective Rangers)
*P St André (Montferrand)	11	N K P J Woods (Blackrock Coll)
T Castaignède (Toulouse)	10	D G Humphreys (London Irish)
G Accoceberry (Bègles-Bordeaux)	9	N A Hogan (Terenure College)
C Califano (Toulouse)	1	N J Popplewell (Newcastle)
M Gonzalez (Bayonne)	2	T J Kingston (Dolphin)
F Tournaire (Narbonne)	3	P M Clohessy (Young Munster)
R Castel (Toulouse)	6	J W Davidson (Dungannon)
A Benazzi (Agen)	4	G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution)
O Roumat (Dax)	5	P S Johns (Dungannon)
L Cabannes (Racing)	7	D S Corkery (Cork Constitution)
F Pelous (Dax)	8	V C P Costello (St Mary's College)

Referee: E F Morrison (England)

Kick-off: 2.0 * denotes captain

REPLACEMENTS: 16 P Bernat-Salles (Bègles-Bordeaux), 17 S Glas (Bourgoin), 18 P Carbonneau (Toulouse), 19 S Dispagne (Toulouse), 20 M de Rougemont (Toulon), 21 M Perie (Toulon).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 M J Field (Malone), 17 P A Burke (Cork Constitution), 18 C Saverimutto (Sale), 19 W D McBride (Malone), 20 H D Hurley (Old Wesley), 21 A T H Clarke (Northampton).

In an increasingly professional age, Castaignède espouses amateur values. Photograph: Julian Herbert

An innocent with a touch of steel

Andrew Longmore on the free spirit determined to restore France's adventurous approach

Dressed in his dark blue French Rugby Federation blazer, black hair unbrushed, face fresh, brown eyes bright, Thomas Castaignède looks more like a boy on his way to school than the man charged with restoring some pride to French rugby; but, for once, the selectors might have made the right choice.

As the team gathered for the five nations' championship match against Ireland at the Parc des Princes today, recriminations after an abject defeat by Scotland still ringing in their ears, the new France stand-off half, all 21 years and 11 stone of him, was espousing a philosophy starkly and wonderfully out of its time. Castaignède spoke in good English of concepts such as "giving pleasure" and "having fun" and admitted that, when he had been asked by Jean-Claude Skrela, the coach, to replace Thierry Lacroix as stand-off against Ireland, his acceptance had come with a condition.

"I told him, if you want me, you can have me, but I will take some hazards," he said. He meant risks, but hazards conveyed the point rather better. The greatest France teams have always been haphazard by nature.

It says something about the strength of Castaignède's beliefs as well as his character that his message should be so firm. For all his winning dropped goal against England, he gained no pleasure from the sterility of his side that day. "In Scotland," he added, "we were just very bad." Against Ireland, he aims to bring back the basics: passing the ball and running like the wind.

"We have to make more of a spectacle because the public deserve something better," he said. "We should show our real face." Such claims trip easily off the tongue, of course, but there is a pedigree and an innocence to Castaignède, a touch of steel, too, that suggests that these are more than idle boasts.

A student of chemical engineering, Castaignède was brought up by Pierre, his father, a gifted stand-off himself, to see rugby as a game, not a profession. He was fed the legend of André Boniface, one of the greatest of France backs, and was nicknamed "Le Petit Boni" at his home town club at Mont-de-Marsan. When he graduated to the red-and-black of Toulouse, his ideals found a ready home.

"I take my rugby like a joke, just for fun," Castaignède said. "To me, it's like playing with friends. Even if I know it's very important, I am still trying to get pleasure from playing, for me and the crowd. I would prefer to lose but to score some tries." Who does the man think he is, an amateur or something?

Castaignède laughed. "I know it is against the age," he said, "and maybe I will have to change, but that is just the way I am." For the selectors as much as Castaignède, the move to stand-off is a gamble, not least because most of his recent club rugby has been played at centre alongside Christophe Deylaud, the regular Toulouse stand-off.

"I actually made my debut for France last year in Argentina as stand-off, but that was easy," he said. "This will be different — a very difficult match. I just hope it will work well because it is a long time since I played there; but people have told me not to worry, just play my normal way."

Castaignède's normal game is based on blistering pace more than raw power. He gave up rugby for athletics for two years at school. Whether his mind moves as fast as his feet will be known better by teatime today, and while these are still early days — this will be only his seventh cap — the style of the France team through to the next World Cup could well be determined by Castaignède's ability to harness the genius of the backs.

Castaignède has his eyes firmly set on the same goal and might even sacrifice his amateur instincts to pursue it, once his studies have finished. "I think I will go to rugby full-time because I would like to be more prepared to play," he said, "but, you know, I can't always think about rugby all the time — one week, two weeks, then it drives me crazy." It is not only France who should pray that Castaignède's precocious skills flourish this afternoon. Rugby needs every last scrap of his wide-eyed sense of adventure.

Wasps can provide stern test as Bath begin to splutter

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IN RECENT weeks, Bath have faltered. They lost their most recent league match and struggled through the cup against second-division opponents. That all this occurred during a six-week period is, perhaps, why it happened, there having been little continuity in the season since the turn of the year.

Whether they can pick up the threads today in the Courage Clubs Championship remains to be seen, but, if their one-match advantage at the top of the first division is to be pulled back, Wasps are one of the clubs who might do it. Wasps are also one of the few senior clubs who can strengthen the view of recent visitors to England that the quality of rugby is not so bad as is sometimes portrayed.

New South Wales ended their eight-match tour with a one-point win at Coventry on Thursday and now look forward to their opening Super 12 match, against Transvaal on March 1, but Matt Williams, their manager, has been surprised to find so many good players operating at such a variety of levels in England.

"How England don't dominate world rugby is beyond me," Williams said. "There is a perception that northern-hemisphere rugby is boring rugby, but we haven't found that. You have such strength in depth, although in Australia we spot players early and push them."

Australian sides, too, long ago came to terms with league rugby whereas English clubs, particularly this season, allow the perceived restrictions of the league programme to govern playing style. It has taken character for Bath and Wasps to break that mould and adopt a broader style.

A key component of Bath's success this season has been Jonathan Callard's play from full back. Bath, however, have chosen to drop him today and play Mike Catt in his England position — largely, it would appear, because Callard's place-kicking in the cup win over Wakefield was not as it should have been.

That is a harsh verdict indeed, though it will be instructive to see which player appears in the quarter-final against Bristol next week. Wasps play Lawrence Dallaglio on the open side.

Scotland punished Wales for a painfully slow start by beating them 32-22 in the A international in Swansea yesterday. Scott Welsh, at stand-off, scoring 17 points.

Thomas still ready to make the running

BY GERALD DAVIES

WHO can control his fate? The question arises as much in sport as in other, less trivial matters, and it is a conundrum with which the first-year philosophy student might care to wrestle. There may be many guiding principles which govern a sportsman's brief span, but, in the bone, he must above all else be a born stoic. Otherwise, he will soon perish. Justin Thomas, the Wales full back, understands this more than most after his bloomer of an experience at Twickenham a fortnight ago.

He had the kind of match that players of any sport, having had misfortune visit them, recognise and understand. It is the day when nothing is likely to go right. Errors occur not in any moderate sense, but unsparingly.

Against England, it began early for Thomas. Under no pressure, he miskicked in the opening minutes and gave England an early advantage. Soon after, a wayward kick from Will Carling rolled evenly towards Twickenham's southwestern corner. Thomas faced the ball head on. Although inescapable at times, this is never a good position to take what is an unfriendly, oval ball turning on its points. In that dreadful, expectant pause, the ball lifted sharply and Thomas, unopposed, knocked on.

"I knew then it was going to be one of those games," Thomas, who was playing for Wales for the fourth time, said. "Nothing is going to go my way today, I thought — and here of all places, today of all days. This is not a backwater game against the village club. This is Wales against England ... a 75,000 crowd at Twickenham ... 60 million on television. I felt in a nightmare."

Worse was to come. In the seventh minute of the second half, Thomas, 22, who has scored 20 tries for club and various Wales representative teams in the past two seasons, picked up Paul Grayson's attempted dropped goal. Thomas began exercising his usual first option and looked for the opportunity to run. He dillied near his own goalline and dallied still further. By the time that he had made up his mind to kick, Jeremy Guscott had closed the gap, charged down the kick and scored.

"It really surprised me how quickly Guscott got to me," Thomas, of Llanelli, said. "At international level, defences close you down so much quicker. There is a massive shift in standard. Players are stronger, faster and sharper 'upstairs'. There is less time.

"What happened has happened. I've got to put it behind me. After all, it's just not to me that such things occur. I felt the way David Campese must have felt when he thought of running near his own goalline after gathering Rob Andrew's attempted dropped goal against the British Isles in 1989. That, too, failed and Ieuan Evans scored the winning try."

A man of discretion would have kicked immediately to touch, but Thomas, like Campese, enjoys the chancy run. He loves improvising and breaking free from the sober tyranny of the coach. So what of him since Twickenham?

"I've thought a lot about what I did two weeks ago," he said, "and I've gone out to do what I normally do in training. I've practised and practised and practised, practising the mistakes out of my game."

He is keeping in mind, he said, what Gary Player once said. Upon seeing the meticulous South African golfer, early one morning, putting every ball into the hole on the practice green before the day's play, an impertinent onlooker observed how lucky Player had been to do so. To which Player replied: "The more I practise, the luckier I get."

Thomas must be hoping that such a philosophy will work for him today against Scotland.

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Les Deux Alpes, France	Chalet Perce Neige	4T HB	16 Mar	Luton	£353	£319	£34
Les Deux Alpes, France	Chalet Neige De Printemps	3T HB	30 Mar	Bristol	£369	£339	£30
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La Plagne, France	Chalet Les Montagnette	4T HB	16 Mar	Bristol	£462	£430	£32
Val D'Isere, France	Chalet Jardin Alpin	4T HB	23 Mar	Bristol/[illegible]	£474	£439	£35
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[illegible]

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Mayrhofen	10	60	fair	varied	closed	cloud	-3	16/2
(All pistes improving; snow forecast)								
Obergurgl	50	110	good	varied	good	cloud	-5	15/2
(Excellent skiing on and off-piste)								
Saalbach	30	55	good	varied	art	snow	-3	16/2
(Fresh snow giving good skiing on most pistes)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	115	300	good	powder	good	sun	-5	13/2
(Excellent skiing conditions, Sarenne piste open)								
Les Arcs	105	220	good	varied	good	sun	-8	13/2
(Excellent skiing on all pistes; off-piste skied out)								
Avoriaz	170	210	good	varied	good	snow	-1	16/2
(Superb skiing everywhere; gusty winds at altitude)								
Megève	70	170	good	varied	good	sun	-1	13/2
(All pistes in excellent shape; wonderful conditions)								
La Tania	70	135	good	powder	good	sun	-10	14/2
(Excellent powdery snow on most pistes; bright sunshine)								
Tignes	125	200	good	varied	good	sun	-12	13/2
(Deep snow cover and excellent skiing everywhere)								
Val d'Isère	110	200	good	powder	good	sun	0	14/2
(Superb skiing everywhere; good powder at Le Fornet)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	55	160	good	heavy	good	snow	-1	16/2
(Excellent conditions; all lifts, links and runs open)								
Verbier	80	140	good	powder	good	fair	0	13/2
(Almost all runs now open; excellent powder skiing)								
Villars	70	120	good	powder	good	fine	1	14/2
(Excellent skiing on all pistes; Les Diablerets link open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

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Ireland with a 14 point start
10/11 France 12/1 Draw Ireland 10/11
Today, Parc des Princes, Kick-off 2.00pm.

WINNING MARGIN

WALES	WINNING MARGIN	SCOTLAND
7/2	1-5 pts	7/2
5/1	6-10 pts	4/1
11/1	11-15 pts	13/2
22/1	16-20 pts	12/1
40/1	21-25 pts	22/1

14/1 Drawn match

WINNING MARGIN

FRANCE	WINNING MARGIN	IRELAND
15/2	1-5 pts	15/2
5/1	6-10 pts	14/1
4/1	11-15 pts	33/1
9/2	16-20 pts	66/1
11/2	21-25 pts	125/1

18/1 Drawn match

FIRST TRYSCORER
9/1 I. Evans
9/1 Joiner
10/1 Dods
11/1 Jardine
12/1 Hastings
12/1 Proctor
12/1 Shepherd
14/1 L. Davies
14/1 N. Davies
14/1 J. Thomas
Penalty tries do not count.

FIRST TRYSCORER
6/1 St. Andre
13/2 Ntamack
9/1 Sadourny
10/1 Camplan
12/1 Wallace
12/1 Lacroix
16/1 Accoceberry
16/1 Cabannes
16/1 Castaignede
18/1 Bell
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Vicompt De Valmont to lead the wise warriors

By Julian Muscat

FORGET what remains of the Champion Hurdle horses, who trade on fleetness of foot. Dismiss the pampered chasers being gingerly pointed at the Cheltenham Gold Cup. It is a day of blood and thunder at Newcastle, where 16 of the oldest, wisest warriors lock horns in the Tote Eider Chase over an extended four miles.

Let us marvel, for a moment, at these endangered dinosaurs: these stayers of extreme distances. Excepting Lord Relic and Captain Dibble, who have yet to run this term, the 14 remaining candidates have covered 185 miles this season alone.

They have jumped 1,128 fences — the equivalent to lapping Newcastle racecourse more than 100 times. Collectively, they have only suffered two falls — both by Into The Red, ironically a standing dish at Aintree. The key to their longevity must lie somewhere within these statistics.

Paul Nicholls, who trains Vicompt De Valmont, has absolutely no doubts. "Like all these stayers, my horse can be a bit moody," he ventured. "He sometimes likes to save a bit for himself, which is probably why he is still racing at the age of eleven. He does run the odd stinker but that's his way. There's no point in trying to bully him at home. My wife rides him out but he spends most of the time turned out in his paddock."

Nicholls must be hoping his horse is on song, for the portents look promising. Vicompt De Valmont has been targeted at this race all season.

Together with Another Excuse, the Irish raider, he is the only horse with the benefit of an outing in the last four weeks. And the blinkers are dispensed with, as they were when the gelding finished strongly over an inadequate trip at Newbury seven days ago.

If that recent outing appears too close for comfort, Nicholls maintains that his charge seems to thrive on racing. "Four days after he ran badly at Warwick in January I thought to myself: 'Sod it, I'll send him out again at Taunton.' And he ran a blinder; his best of the season."

A decent run from **Vicompt De Valmont** would see him join his stablemate, Deep Bramble, in an assault on the Grand National. The Aintree executive yesterday announced it has advanced the time of this year's renewal, on March 30, from 3.45 to 3.00. The race is to be staged a week earlier than usual and consequently prior to British Summer Time. The off-time, which has been changed to facilitate live transmission of the race around the globe, will revert to its traditional slot in 1997.

BBC cameras will be on site today at Chepstow, where the Persian War Premier Novices' Hurdle has attracted a competitive entry. Wisley Wonder has won his last five starts and he should make this a true test of stamina.

Among those queuing up to challenge him will be Frontager, Lake Kariba, Whattabob and Zephyrus. But the most potent of his rivals could be **Jet Rules**, a good winner at Kempton. This improving customer should find conditions to his liking.

In the continuing and tedious battle over sponsorship sites, George Ward, chairman of Tripleprint, announced his company will not renew its support of the Easter and Masaka Stakes at Kempton. Also under threat is the firm's backing of the King George VI Chase meeting and a plethora of races on the Flat.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: STEEL MOSS
(1.50 Windsor)
Next best: Silver Stick
(4.10 Newcastle)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Cuddy Dale soared over the last fence at Sandown yesterday, but failed to contain Arthur's Minstrel

Easby Joker can have last laugh

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

CHEPSTOW
BBC1

1.00: See above.

1.30: Harwell Lad, not one to trust implicitly, should still prove too strong for his three opponents. He dominated a better contest from the front before tiring in the straight at Ascot last month and will not be inconvenienced by dropping back in distance. Bond Jnr made mistakes when pulled up at Ascot on Wednesday and his stable companion, Bramblehill Buck, looks a better forecast prospect.

2.00: Killone Abbot will be popular now that he reverts to this trip. He romped through similar ground at Newbury in November and looks sure to go close. However, **Hops And Pops**, very much at home on this track, will also cope with the conditions and her front-running antics could pay dividends.

The mare, who blundered her way out of a competitive Sandown event last week, is marginally out of the handicap, but that is largely offset by the value of Richard Johnson's claim. Mudahim is not out of it with his big weight. Thinking Twice had Sohrab behind him last time but is best on a sound surface.

NEWCASTLE
CHANNEL 4

3.00: Strong Deel, who had Gnome's Tycoon in arrears, showed improved form on his last outing. Nevertheless, he was well behind **Easby Joker** when the latter tumbled at the last at Wetherby last month. The selection's fencing is not foot-perfect but these obstacles should not unduly tax him, and he is on a handy mark. Northants is untroubled by alternating between fences and hurdles but may appreciate a stiffer test these days.

3.35: Stakes should be kept to a minimum here. Circus Line, General Jimbo, Coureur and Here Comes Herbie are not without ability but **Charity Crusader** had some decent, albeit distant, form on the Flat. He should progress for his hurdles debut last week.

4.05: See above

4.40: Mary Reveley complicates the issue by saddling three runners. Turnpole has been impressive in two outings but all his form — including his efforts on the Flat — has come on a sound surface. Bonanza and **Windswept Lady** have long absences to overcome but the latter, who ran well on her reappearance last season, will relish these testing conditions.

The mare is narrowly preferred to Sparky Gayle, who jumped hesitantly when narrowly beaten at Haydock last time. Ivy House's chance is hard to evaluate, although he ran with credit when returned to hurdles last time out. The ground may be too soft for Golden Hello and The Last Fling, while Native Field is a difficult ride.

JULIAN MUSCAT

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5/1	Vicompt De Valmont	14/1	Over The Deel
11/2	Superior Finish	14/1	Taramoss
6/1	Lord Relic	16/1	Grange Brake
7/1	Killeshin	20/1	Captain Dibble
7/1	Mr Boston	20/1	Into The Red
9/1	Silver Stick	25/1	Antonin
12/1	Another Excuse	66/1	Kilcolgan
14/1	Gold Cap	150/1	Paddy Morissey

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NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

1.25 Go-Informal
1.55 The Grey Monk
2.30 Rua Ros
3.00 Deep Decision
3.35 Circus Line
4.10 Gold Cap
4.40 SPARKY GAYLE (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.40 THE LAST FLING.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.25 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HURDLE (£2,789: 2m 4f) (22 runners)

101	414	CAMPAIGN 31 (D,BF,F) (Spectrum) M Hammond 5-11-10	D Bridgwater	[illegible]
102	1213-51	GO-INFORMAL 81 (CD,F,G,S) (R Marshall) J Jefferson 5-11-10	M Dwyer	93
103	2215	JOCKS CROSS 14 (S) (Mrs G Harrison) G Richards 5-11-10	A Dobbin	89
104	1/5-PP41	NAUGHTY FUTURE 19 (G,S) (A Collins) J J O'Neill 7-11-10	A Roche (3)	73
105	5	HIGHLAND VIEW 63 (R Bowden) J Johnson 6-11-4	B Harding (3)	62
106	00	HOWYOUDOING 24 (Mrs G Handley) M Barnes 6-11-4	P Waggott	70
107	00-050	KILTULLA 25 (Brampton Royal Oak) Mrs S Smith 6-11-4	R Guest	56
108	4	MARBLE MAN 32 (D Lever) M Hammond 6-11-4	Mr C Bonner (3)	79
109	114-	MASTER NOVA 395 (S) (Matthews Breeding and Racing) M Camacho 6-11-4	P Niven	–
110	00	NOOSA SOUND 32 (Mrs J Peutherer) L Lungo 6-11-4	T Reed	–
111	00	OUT BY NIGHT 37 (A Coupland) G Moore 5-11-4	N Bentley	–
112	4066-30	PEBBLE BEACH 77 (Pebble Beach Ptnrs) G Moore 6-11-4	J Callaghan	69
113	321/	PHILHARMONIC 1020 (F) (C Longstaff) J Fitzgerald 8-11-4	D Byrne	–
114		STAN'S YOUR MAN (Mrs J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-11-4	DOUBTFUL	–
115	0-	THE OTHER MAN 350 (Stonebridge Racing) Miss L Siddall 6-11-4	R Supple	–
116	P61320	COPPERHURST 64 (D,G) (W Kemp) W Kemp 5-10-13	S McDougall	79
117	11/	HANDMAIDEN 85F (G) (R Fenwick-Gibson) A Harrison 6-10-13	D Bentley	–
118	600	ROSIE 26 (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 6-10-13	P McLoughlin	–
119		HOTSPUR STREET 141F (S Clarke) M W Easterby 4-10-7	R Garritty	–
120	0U	KEMO SABO 7 (R Nichol) C Parker 4-10-7	D Parker (3)	71
121	0	RED SPECTACLE 3F (D Morgan) P Haslam 4-10-7	S Taylor (7)	–
122	5453	RUBY ROCK 44 (V) (J Lacey) B Murray 4-10-2	O Pears	75

BETTING: 3-1 Go-Informal, 9-2 Campaign, 6-1 Jocks Cross, 7-1 Master Nova, 10-1 Naughty Future, 12-1 Handmaiden, 14-1 Philharmonic, 16-1 others

1995: MOREOF A GUNNER 5-11-4 L Wyer (10-1) J Jefferson 16 ran

1.55 NEWCASTLE NOVICES CHASE (£4,527: 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

201	131-111	THE GREY MONK 32 (D,G,S) (A Duff) G Richards 8-11-13	A Dobbin	[illegible]
202	45-1556	DEVILRY 3 (G,S) (R Johnson) G Moore 6-11-3	J Callaghan	50
203	5216-F2	KNOW-NO-NO 36 (G) (Mrs A Kane) M Hammond 7-11-3	R Garritty	56
204	1/123/4	MARRA'S ROSCOE 86 (G,S) (Mrs D Homer) Mrs M Reveley 10-11-3	P Niven	–

BETTING: 2-7 The Grey Monk, 5-1 Know-No-No, 8-1 Devilry, 20-1 Marra's Roscoe

1995: HIGH ALTITUDE 7-11-3 N Doughty (11-8 fav) G Moore 10 ran

2.30 NORTHERN RACING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,344: 3m) (25 runners)

301	F4-P620	FLAT TOP 14 (D,S) (D Spence) M W Easterby 5-12-0	E Callaghan	97
302	234005/	ERZADJAN 698 (C,G) (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-3	M Herrington (5)	–
303	2-30300	GRACE CARD 14 (D,G,S) (G Farndon) R Woodhouse 10-11-9	D J Kavanagh	94
304	1U0505	ADRIEN 24 (B,D,F,S) (Miss K Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-7	A K Smith (7)	98
305	P-1	APPLAUDER 254 (D,S) (Mrs J Plummer) P Beaumont 7-11-6	B Grattan (5)	89
306	2F0P-6P	NORTHERN SQUIRE 43 (G,S) (Mrs J Davenport) J Jefferson 8-11-5	M Newton (5)	88
307	454/46-0	CELTIC BREEZE 43 (V,D,G,S) (H Gething) Mrs A Naughton 13-11-3	J Supple	98
308	00P-2	CARLEY LAD 32 (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) G Richards 8-11-3	B Harding	98
309	334P-05	VALLEY GARDEN 77 (G,S) (The Motley Crew) J J O'Neill 6-11-0	A Roche	90
310	15/6/P1	NATIVE CROWN 36 (CD,F,G) (T Carruthers) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-13	A Watt (5)	93
311	20607-4	IJAB 85F (G) (Mrs L Parkes) J Parkes 6-10-11	R McCarthy (5)	86
312	36-6036	D'ARBLAY STREET 24 (B,S) (Green For Luck) W Kemp 7-10-8	S Taylor	96
313	2-24240	CLASSIC CREST 63 (G) (A & G Peacock) G Moore 5-10-8	P Walsh	89
314	662500	SUPERHOO 24 (S) (R Craggs) R Craggs 5-10-6	D Ryan (5)	91
315	0-33555	GERMAN LEGEND 18 (D,F) (D Pryde) D Lamb 6-10-5	A Manners (5)	[illegible]
316	306-05	ANSURO AGAIN 84 (Frickley Holdings Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-4	G Cahill	91
317	442504	EXEMPLAR 36 (F) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6-10-4	L Donnelly (5)	93
318	F40-446	DASHMAR 59 (BF) (J Moore) J Moore 9-10-4	S Curran	94
319	6U/FP-P0	MR OPTIMISTIC 24 (G,S) (Mrs J Bulman) F Murtagh 8-10-2	F Leahy	–
320	5-4505P	THE JEWELLER 131 (V,D,F,S) (Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 9-10-1	D Parker	–
321	3/F0-	GLEN MORVERN 292 (F) (G McGuinness) W Kemp 10-10-1	S Haworth (5)	–
322	PP-0256	FOREVER SILVER 28 (D Wright) L Lungo 6-10-0	F Perratt	95
323	P3/3PP-F	BARON TWO SHOES 60 (V,S) (R Harland) G Kelly 10-10-0	D Thomas	–
324	123-U04	RUA ROS 39 (S) (R Preston) Mrs S Smith 6-10-0	R Wilkinson (5)	83
325	0/F024	CIRCLE BOY 29 (Sheeway Ltd) W Storey 9-10-0	R McGrath (5)	81

Long handicap: Baron Two Shoes 9-11, Rua Ros 9-9, Circle Boy 8-12

BETTING: 5-1 Native Crown, 6-1 Valley Garden, 8-1 Exemplar, Carley Lad, 10-1 Applauder, Rua Ros, Flat Top, 12-1 others

1995: GREAT EASEBY 5-11-1 R McGrath (12-1) W Storey 12 ran

3.00 NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY HANDICAP CHASE (£10,943: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

C4

401	252-143	GNOME'S TYCOON 14 (D,F,G,S) (Flibbertigibbet) J Johnson 10-11-12	Mr C Bonner (3)	91
402	65P-243	SNITTON LANE 28 (D,F,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 10-11-7	A Dobbin	95
403	221-225	VALIANT WARRIOR 14 (CD,F,G,S) (P Saltars) M Hammond 8-11-6	R Garritty	94
404	31F-552	NORTHANTS 32 (CD,G,S) (C Renaison) W Storey 10-11-4	M Moloney	[illegible]
405	543432	STRONG DEEL 14 (CD,F,G,S) (J Stephenson) W Reed 8-11-2	T Reed	96
406	3F2314	CHIEF RAIDER 14 (D,F,G,S) (J Wade) J Wade 8-11-2	M Dwyer	86
407	1155-30	ONE FOR THE POT 43 (C,F,G,S) (P Davies) Mrs A Naughton 11-10-12	J Supple (3)	95
408	4-11F1F	EASBY JOKER 37 (CD,G,S) (G Orchard) S Kettlewell 8-10-6	P Niven	93
409	1P0334	MILS MIJ 7 (D,F,G,S) (W Hurst) T Cuthbert 11-10-4	J Callaghan	88
410	11F2-00	SON OF IRIS 38 (F,G) (MHG Systems Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-1	D Bridgwater	89
411	132-533	DEEP DECISION 43 (CD,F,G) (A Cairns) P Cheesbrough 10-10-0	R Supple	90
412	F111-55	SUPER SANDY 38 (S) (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 9-10-0	D Parker (3)	80
413	1422-02	GOLDEN FIDDLE 7 (D,S) (W Wilson) J Oliver 8-10-0	B Storey	84

Long handicap: Deep Decision 9-13, Super Sandy 9-13, Golden Fiddle 9-10.

BETTING: 4-1 Easby Joker, 5-1 Strong Deel, 11-2 Northants, 6-1 Gnome's Tycoon, 13-2 Deep Decision, 7-1 Chief Raider, 8-1 Golden Fiddle, 10-1 others

1995: MR WOODCOCK 10-10-6 P Niven (7-1) Mrs M Reveley 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

VALIANT WARRIOR 1½l 2nd of 12 to Master Boston in handicap chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start, with STRONG DEEL 7l 3rd. NORTHANTS 7l 2nd of 9 to General Wolfe in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good to soft). STRONG DEEL 1¼l 3rd of 8 to Unguided Missile in handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with GNOME'S TYCOON (2lb worse off) 5l 3rd and VALIANT WARRIOR (2lb worse off) 17l 5th. CHIEF RAIDER 5¾l 4th of 9 to Billygoat Gruff in novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). EASBY JOKER beat Lupy Minstrel 3l in 8-runner handicap chase at Hexham (3m 1f, good) penultimate start. DEEP DECISION 2½l 3rd of 12 to Fiveleigh Builds in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m, good) with STRONG DEEL (2lb worse off) 14l 4th. GOLDEN FIDDLE short-head 2nd of 9 to Major Bell in handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good) with MILS MIJ (8lb better off) head and 5l 4th.
Selection: STRONG DEEL

3.35 NORTHERN ELECTRIC CHARITY CHALLENGE SERIES NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,128: 2m) (21 runners)

C4

501		ASTRAL WEEKS 128F (Kenmore Estates Ltd) L Lungo 5-11-4	T Reed	–
502	F056	BOLD AMUSEMENT 7 (Mrs A Bell) W Cunningham 6-11-4	N Smith	98
503	4	CHARITY CRUSADER 7 (Express Marie Curie RC) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4	P Niven	84
504	22-54	CIRCUS LINE 25 (Mrs P Hartley) M W Easterby 5-11-4	R Garritty	98
505	6	COUREUR 24 (M Hammond) M Hammond 7-11-4	D Bridgwater	93
506	3P0P-FU	DERWENT LAD 28 (J Graham) M Barnes 7-11-4	P Waggott	80
507		ELLIOTT'S WISH (D Fulton) J Howard Johnson 5-11-4	Mr C Bonner (3)	–
508	U0P-0F	PAINT YOUR WAGON 24 (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 6-11-4	B Storey	–
509	0/P3300-	SABBAQ 376 (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 6-11-4	P McLoughlin	90
510	0	SHOTLEY AGAIN 7F (J Swinburne) N Bycroft 6-11-4	F Leahy (3)	–
511	00	DIDDY RYMER 59 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6-10-13	R Guest	–
512	30	LEVEL EDGE 24 (R Jackson) H Alexander 5-10-13	D Thomas (7)	76
513	50	ROYAL COMEDIAN 38 (Fir Trading Ltd) B Murray 7-10-13	O Pears	[illegible]
514	6/0-	STYLISH ROSE 470 (T McDonagh) P Cheesbrough 6-10-13	R Supple	–
515	06	EIGHT SHARP 35 (The Gezumi Partnership 3) M Hammond 4-10-8	M Dwyer	90
516	0603	GENERAL JIMBO 7F (B Badham) F Murphy 4-10-8	D J Kavanagh (5)	96
517	5	HERE COMES HERBIE 24 (H Hutchinson) W Storey 4-10-8	M Moloney	84
518		NEBRANGUS 22F (B Rayner) N Bycroft 4-10-8	D Towler (7)	–
519	000	RUBISLAW 80 (Mrs K Lamb) Mrs K Lamb 4-10-8	Miss S Lamb (7)	–
520	00	NEW BROOM 63 (Mrs J Mountifield) T Easterby 4-10-3	J Callaghan	–
521	0	WARRGEM 14 (J Henderson (Co Durham)) B Ellison 4-10-3	B Harding (3)	–

BETTING: 7-4 Charity Crusader, 5-1 Circus Line, 6-1 General Jimbo, 7-1 Coureur, Eight Sharp, 8-1 Here Comes Herbie, 10-1 Royal Comedian, 12-1 others

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

BOLD AMUSEMENT about 16¾l 5th of 13 to Direct Route in maiden hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good) with ROYAL COMEDIAN about 10l 7th. CHARITY CRUSADER 20¾l 4th of 11 to Celestial Choir in maiden hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). CIRCUS LINE 16¾l 4th of 22 to Arithmetic in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
GENERAL JIMBO neck and 15l 3rd of 13 to Balhernoch in novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm) with COUREUR 2l 6th, LEVEL EDGE 18l 8th and PAINT YOUR WAGON fell 1st. ROYAL COMEDIAN 19¾l 5th of 12 to Solomon's Dancer in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start, with BOLD AMUSEMENT about 14l 8th.
Selection: CHARITY CRUSADER

4.10 TOTE EIDER HANDICAP CHASE (£22,561: 4m 1f) (16 runners)

C4

601	1F/F23P-	LORD RELIC 413 (S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 10-11-7	D Bridgwater	95
602	0U0-331	SUPERIOR FINISH 42 (G,S) (G-Henley) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-4	R Farrant	93
603	331U5-4	MR BOSTON 78 (F,G,S) (M Oldham) Mrs M Reveley 11-11-2	P Niven	98
604	0/21P0-	CAPTAIN DIBBLE 406 (F,G,S) (Mrs R Vaughan) N Twiston-Davies 11-11-0	J Frost	95
605	20P-P06	ANTONIN 37 (B,F,G,S) (G Bailey Ltd) Mrs S Bramall 8-10-9	J Burke	98
606	351004	ANOTHER EXCUSE 23 (G,S) (Kilshanoig Synd) E O'Sullivan (Ire) 8-10-6	M Dwyer	90
607	5416U6	GRANGE BRAKE 30 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-0	D Walsh (5)	[illegible]
608	643-353	OVER THE DEEL 82 (C,F,G,S) (G Tobitt) J Johnson 10-10-0	Mr C Bonner (3)	94
609	0-545P3	GOLD CAP 35 (G,S) (G Meadows) Miss J Bower 11-10-0	B Harding (3)	96
610	1-25331	SILVER STICK 35 (V,C,F,G,S) (Lord Manton) M W Easterby 9-10-0	Mr J Culloty (7)	97
611	4P-3628	VICOMPT DE VALMONT 7 (G,S) (J Blackwell) P Nicholls 11-10-0	A Dobbin	95
612	45-FFP0	INTO THE RED 42 (CD,G,S) (J Hockle) J White 12-10-0	P McLoughlin	93
613	550321	KILLESHIN 30 (G,S) (H Manners) H Manners 10-10-0	S Curran (3)	87
614	3121/53	TARAMOSS 42 (S) (H Parker) J Edwards 9-10-0	D Parker (3)	80
615	3-14024	KILCOLGAN 38 (F,S) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 9-10-0	B Storey	74
616	6/PP6-02	PADDY MORRISSEY 35 (Mrs H Fraser) J Haldane 9-10-0	G Cahill (5)	67

Long handicap: Grange Brake 9-13, Over The Deel 9-13, Gold Cap 9-13, Silver Stick 9-13, Vicompt De Valmont 9-12, Into The Red 9-11, Killeshin 9-5, Taramoss 9-4, Kilcolgan 8-5, Paddy Morrissey 6-13

BETTING: 9-2 Lord Relic, 5-1 Superior Finish, 7-1 Mr Boston, 8-1 Another Excuse, 10-1 Vicompt De Valmont, Killeshin, Silver Stick, 12-1 others.

1995: WILLSFORD 12-10-6 P Niven (4-1) Mrs J Pitman 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

SUPERIOR FINISH beat Sibton Abbey 2l in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft) with GRANGE BRAKE (13lb better off) about 36l 6th and INTO THE RED (9lb better off) tailed off 9th. MR BOSTON 13l 4th of 9 to Willsford in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good) with GOLD CAP (7lb better off) 11l 5th and INTO THE RED pulled up 14th. OVER THE DEEL 8¾l 3rd of 8 to Jodami in handicap chase at Kelso (3m 4f, good to soft).
GOLD CAP 10½l 3rd of 12 to Full Of Oats in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, good to soft) with VICOMPT DE VALMONT (5lb worse off) 24l 6th and GRANGE BRAKE unseated rider 4 out. SILVER STICK beat PADDY MORRISSEY (23lb worse off) 9l in 7-runner handicap chase here (3m 6f, good). VICOMPT DE VALMONT short-head and 2¾l 3rd of 13 to Sunley Bay in handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft). KILLESHIN beat VICOMPT DE VALMONT (10lb better off) 3l in 11-runner handicap chase at Taunton (4m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with GRANGE BRAKE (4lb better off) tailed off 6th.
Selection: MR BOSTON

4.40 NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY HANDICAP HURDLE (£11,284: 2m 4f) (18 runners)

C4

1	1/5566D-	ATTADALE 317 (CD,F,G,S) (The Low Flyers Ltd) L Lungo 8-11-13	T Reed	94
2	11400-0	BURNT IMP 42 (D,F,G,S) (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) G Moore 6-11-6	J Callaghan	86
3	10-0012	GOLDEN HELLO 14 (C,F,G,S) (G Shouler) T Easterby 5-11-4	R Garritty	93
4	/120/2P-	SILLARS STALKER 387 (D,F,G,S) (Sillars Civil Eng) Mrs A Naughton 8-11-1	G Harker	–
5	1001-13	SPARKY GAYLE 70 (D,BF,F,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 6-10-13	B Storey	90
6	111211	THE LAST FLING 35 (C,D,F,G) (R Waterson) Mrs S Smith 6-10-13	R Guest	[illegible]
7	50-3256	IVY HOUSE 14 (G,S) (Mrs L Joughin) J J O'Neill 8-10-11	A Roche (3)	94
8	310/21P	SESAME SEED 26 (D,BF,G,S) (R Tooth) Mrs J Cecil 8-10-11	T Kent	96
9	11	TURNPOLE 81 (C,G) (W Williams) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-8	P Niven	89
10	13/2022	NATIVE FIELD 28 (F,S) (R White) J Fitzgerald 7-10-6	M Dwyer	97
11	03-6344	TRUMP 32 (D,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 7-10-5	D Parker (3)	93
12	3423-2F	BONANZA 206 (CD,F,G,S) (Waldridge Dev Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 9-10-3	R Hodge	90
13	2121P5-	WINDSWEPT LADY 301 (D,G,S) (Mrs S McDonald) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-3	G Cahill (5)	87
14	402425	URBAN DANCING 3 (G) (R McCulloch) B Ellison 7-10-1	B Harding (3)	89
15	32521-0	HIGH MIND 14 (F) (J Wilson) Miss L Siddall 7-10-0	R Supple	[illegible]
16	0P2-03F	SUNDAY NEWS'N'ECHO 35 (G) (D Batey) W Storey 5-10-0	R McGrath (7)	[illegible]
17	01350-4	VAYRUA 16 (CD,G,S) (J Hellens Ltd) J Hellens 11-10-0	S Taylor (7)	96
18	0-24022	NODFORM WONDER 7 (CD,F,G,S) (Equname Ltd) D Eddy 9-10-0	D Walsh (5)	83

Long handicap: High Mind 9-11, Sunday News'n'echo 9-10, Vayrua 9-7, Nodform Wonder 9-6.

BETTING: 9-2 Native Field, 5-1 Sparky Gayle, 6-1 Golden Hello, The Last Fling, 7-1 Sesame Seed, 8-1 Turnpole, 10-1 Ivy House, 12-1 others.

1995: CHIEF MINISTER 6-11-1 Peter Hobbs (8-1) T Dyer 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

GOLDEN HELLO 3½l 2nd of 11 to King's Cross in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft) with HIGH MIND (1lb better off) 40l last. SPARKY GAYLE head and 1¼l 3rd of 7 to Home Counties in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good). THE LAST FLING beat Zamborer 5l in 14-runner handicap hurdle here (3m, good).
SESAME SEED beat TOP CEES 4l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start. TURNPOLE beat Beggars Banquet 3½l in 18-runner novice hurdle here (2m, good). NATIVE FIELD neck 2nd of 15 to Angelo's Double in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good) with SESAME SEED pulled up 2 out. NODFORM WONDER 1l 2nd of 8 to Aragon Ayr in conditional jockeys' claiming hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good).
Selection: SPARKY GAYLE (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Camacho	5	8	62.5	P Niven	33	129	25.6
J White	3	6	50.0	N Bentley	9	42	21.4
M W Easterby	9	37	24.3	D Byrne	6	29	20.7
J Jefferson	6	25	24.0	M Dwyer	10	61	16.4
Mrs M Reveley	30	126	23.8	T Reed	15	92	16.3
P Cheesbrough	12	59	20.3	R Garritty	7	46	15.2

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, first race 2.20), Fontwell Park (2.00), Musselburgh (2.10)

TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.20), Catterick (2.10), Nottingham (2.00)

WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 2.00), Folkestone (1.40), Sedgefield (1.50)

THURSDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.10), Huntingdon (C4, 1.50), Wincanton (C4, 2.00)

FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.10), Haydock Park (2.00), Kempton Park (2.20)

SATURDAY: Lingfield (AW, 2.20), Doncaster (2.10), Haydock Park (BBC, 1.00), Kempton Park (C4, 1.55), Musselburgh (1.15)

Flat meetings in bold

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

1.00 Whattabob
1.30 Harwell Lad
2.00 Killone Abbot
2.35 Pete The Parson
3.05 Coralette
3.40 Jurassic Classic
4.15 See Enough

GOING: SOFT SIS

1.00 PERSIAN WAR PREMIER NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: £9,630: 2m 4f 110yd) (16 runners)

BBC1

1	0-41111	WISLEY WONDER 35 (D,F,G,S) (Wisley Golf) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-12	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
2	23-F1	ACT OF FAITH 36 (D,S) (Mrs P Baker) N Gaselee 6-11-6	D Gallagher	97
3	523/5-12	FRONTAGER 7 (BF,S) (C Egerton & Partners) C Egerton 6-11-6	Mr J Durkan	96
4	4-6521	JET RULES 28 (G) (Jet Stationery) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-6	W Marston	92
5	2	LAKE KARIBA 30 (BF) (Cary, Barber, Coburn) P Nicholls 5-11-6	A P McCoy	77
6	00/	MAJOR NOVA 305P (G) (Mrs G Lett) N Smith 7-11-6	J Ryan	–
7	6-4023F	MR KERMIT 25 (D Blagden) A J Wilson 5-11-6	L Harvey	73
8	62-5	RARE OCCURANCE 28 (P Harris) R Dickin 6-11-6	D Meredith	93
9	1/52-221	WHATTABOB 14 (F,S) (Mrs M Turner) N Henderson 7-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	96
10	1-114	ZEPHYRUS 42 (G) (E & W Roberts) O Sherwood 6-11-6	R Dunwoody	98
11	100/P5-0	CELTIC EMERALD 44 (Mrs M Eckley) R Eckley 8-11-1	D Walsh	–
12	P0-	GO FROLIC 352 (Miss C Phillips) Miss C Phillips 5-11-1	R Johnson	60
13	5	MU-TADIL 28 (Mrs V Jones) R Baker 4-10-9	N Mann	–
14	P	TORCH VERT 97 (P Green) N Walker 4-10-9	T Jenks	–
15		BLAZING MIRACLE 280F (Mrs R Henderson) Mrs R Henderson 4-10-4	G Hogan	–
16	631	SPARKLING YASMIN 35 (D,S) (J Palmer) P Hobbs 4-10-4	B Powell	79

BETTING: 5-2 Wisley Wonder, 4-1 Whattabob, 5-1 Act Of Faith, 7-1 Zephyrus, 8-1 Jet Rules, 12-1 Lake Kariba, Sparkling Yasmin, 14-1 others

1995: ST MELLION FAIRWAY 6-11-6 T Grantham (2-1) J Gifford 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

WISLEY WONDER completed four-timer beat Eladbert Equanime 2l in 20-runner novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, soft). ACT OF FAITH beat WHATTABOB 1½l in 20-runner novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to soft). FRONTAGER 1½l 2nd of 16 to Marble Tribe in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). JET RULES beat Crown Equerry 3l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good). LAKE KARIBA 2½l 2nd of 12 to All Clear in novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). WHATTABOB beat Fatma 4l in 20-runner maiden hurdle at Towcester (2m 6f, good to firm). ZEPHYRUS about 6¾l 4th of 9 to Right Win in grade I Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: WISLEY WONDER

1.30 FLEDGLING CHASE (£6,830: 2m 3f 110yd) (4 runners)

BBC1

1	11113	HARWELL LAD 35 (F,G,S) (H Wellstead) R Alner 7-11-6	Mr R Nuttall	[illegible]
2	426/-22P	BOND JNR 3 (G,S) (Paul K Barber) P Nicholls 7-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	94
3	11F142	BRAMBLEHILL BUCK 25 (BF,S) (T and J Curry) P Nicholls 7-11-4	A P McCoy	98
4	415-3UP	KINGS CHERRY 26 (S) (T Swaffield) R Buckler 8-11-4	B Powell	–

BETTING: 4-5 Harwell Lad, 2-1 Bramblehill Buck, 9-2 Bond Jnr, 10-1 Kings Cherry

1995: SPUFFINGTON 7-11-8 P Hide (11-4) J Gifford 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

HARWELL LAD 15½l 3rd to Hill Of Tullow in 9-runner novice chase at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to soft). BOND JNR 20l 2nd to Call It A Day in 8-runner novice chase over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start. BRAMBLEHILL BUCK 5l 2nd to Texao in 8-runner handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, heavy), with KINGS CHERRY (7lb better off) pulled up before 13th. KINGS CHERRY best effort this term when 27l 3rd to Morning Dream in 10-runner handicap chase at Tralee (2m 4f, good to soft).
Selection: BOND JNR

☐ Mark Dwyer completed a double at Fakenham yesterday at odds of over 30-1. It was the Northern-based jockey's first visit to the track for 13 years.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101	113143	GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0	B West (7)	88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.00 M & N GROUP HURDLE (Limited handicap: £7,103: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

BBC1

1	P6112-0	MUDAHIM 28 (C,F,G,S) (K Bell) C Broad 10-12-0	A P McCoy	94
2	1011-15	KILLONE ABBOT 36 (C,D,BF,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Old 7-10-12	G Upton	98
3	26-F030	KADASTROF 7 (S) (A Fatemi) R Dickin 6-10-9	D Meredith	98
4	30-1215	SOHRAB 28 (S) (Mrs J Richards) M Pipe 8-10-7	J Lower	[illegible]
5	010-003	THINKING TWICE 28 (F,G) (E McGrath) N Henderson 7-10-7	M A Fitzgerald	96
6	105-104	HOPS AND POPS 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Happy Band) R Alner 9-10-7	R Johnson (3)	97
7	021-P05	TAOS 14 (B,D,F,S) (S Kelly) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-7	T Jenks	90
8	11-	KAMIKAZE 397 (D,G) (Major B Salensbury) J White 6-10-7	D Gallagher	80
9	/1215/5-	GO MARY 434 (C,G,S) (Miss C Phillips) Miss C Phillips 10-10-7	B Powell	71
10	1/0-4/5	NEEDWOOD MUPPET 35 (D,G) (D Blagden) A J Wilson 9-10-7	L Harvey	89

Long handicap: Sohrab 10-5, Thinking Twice 10-4, Hops And Pops 10-3, Taos 9-11, Kamikaze 9-10, Go Mary 9-1, Needwood Muppet 8-10

BETTING: 5-2 Killone Abbot, 3-1 Sohrab, 9-2 Thinking Twice, 6-1 Hops And Pops, 8-1 Kadastrof, 10-1 Mudahim, Taos, 12-1 others

1995: TOP SPIN 6-11-1 A P McCoy (7-2) J Jenkins 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

MUDAHIM best effort last term beat Alcuas 7l in Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, heavy). KILLONE ABBOT beat Mouse Bird 20l in 7-runner Gerry Fielden Hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. KADASTROF 17l 3rd of 9 to Pridwell in hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. SOHRAB beat Kingsfield Pet 1½l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft) on penultimate start, with TAOS (4lb better) pulled up before 2 out. THINKING TWICE 9l 3rd of 12 to Warm Spell in handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m, good) with SOHRAB (11lb better off) 5¾l 5th. HOPS AND POPS 13½l 4th of 14 to Tranglot in Tote Handicap Hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to firm) with TAOS (6lb worse off) 15l 5th. KAMIKAZE beat Albeyan 5l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, good).
Selection: KILLONE ABBOT

2.35 FLYOVER NOVICES CHASE (£3,078: 2m 110yd) (3 runners)

1	1310-14	SEEK THE FAITH 35 (CD,S) (R Mathews) M Sheppard 7-11-9	B Powell	[illegible]
2	330-03U	PETE THE PARSON 39 (W Shaw) J Old 7-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	–
3	P-32403	VERYVEL 30 (S) (C Lewis) J Bradley 5-10-7	A P McCoy	68

BETTING: 8-11 Seek The Faith, 9-4 Veryvel, 7-2 Pete The Parson

1995: BENJAMIN LANCASTER 11-11-6 A P McCoy (5-4) M Griffin 7 ran

3.05 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,542: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

1	62	AMBLESIDE 26 (B Yirt) Mrs S Williams 5-11-0	R Dunwoody	84
2	P00-0	CALIPO BELLO 73 (C Toscana) P Murphy 6-11-0	B Powell	–
3	4	CORALETTE 65 (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 6-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
4	0F	COUNTRY MINSTREL 30 (S Douch) S Douch 5-11-0	G Hogan (3)	–
5	020	COXWELL STEPTOE 86 (M Allsopp) Miss H Knight 6-11-0	A P McCoy	64
6	RP	HOLD THE FORT 30 (P Selwood) A Dore 5-11-0	L Harvey	–
7	50	TOMPETOO 65 (T Pebble Ltd) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0	T Jenks	–
8	60-0-P	BELMORE CLOUD 81 (Mrs A Hatfield) M Pipe 7-10-9	J Lower	–
9	5000	DEARDS SMASHER 26 (Mrs G Lett) N Smith 7-10-9	J Ryan	–
10	00/000-	DUNNICKS COUNTRY 331 (F Tucker) F Tucker 6-10-9	G Upton	–
11	0-0	MILLY LE MOSS 94 (Mrs M Eckley) R Eckley 7-10-9	R Johnson (3)	–
12	P	PRUSSIAN STORM 35 (C Dearden) M Bradstock 7-10-9	P Holley	–

BETTING: 6-4 Coralette, 11-4 Ambleside, 5-1 Coxwell Steptoe, 10-1 Tompetoo, Belmore Cloud, 14-1 Calipo Bello, 25-1 others

1995: TREASURE AGAIN 6-11-7 A P McCoy (7-4) Mrs M Jones 5 ran

3.40 SNAFFLES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,099: 3m 2f 110yd) (21 runners)

1	2112-46	SPUFFINGTON 14 (C,G,S) (J Clopet) J Gifford 8-11-13	—	87
2	U055P-5	CAPABILITY BROWN 36 (C,F,G,S) (D Lewis) J Bradley 9-11-9	R Johnson (3)	[illegible]
3	F6111-P	MUGONI BEACH 97 (D,F,G,S) (J Enois) M Pipe 11-11-9	J Lower	86
4	3121/53	TARAMOSS 42 (D,S) (H Parker) J Edwards 9-11-5	D Parker (3)	80
5	453-04P	PLASTIC SPACEAGE 7 (C,D,G,S) (Spaceage Plastics) J Old 13-11-4	G Upton	98
6	31313-0	THE MALAKARMA 35 (D,F,G,S) (C Obery) Mrs I McKie 10-10-13	L Harvey	86
7	/F4SP-P	POLAR REGION 23 (F,G,S) (C Marner) N Henderson 10-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	–
8	00/-P111	CLASS OF NINETYTWO 25 (D,F,G) (Lord Cadogan) T Forster 7-10-10	R Dunwoody	91
9	P11242	COURT MELODY 26 (B,D,G,S) (M Coburn) P Nicholls 8-10-9	A P McCoy	95
10	P-U685P	CYTHERE 30 (B,CD,S) (K Carr) J Gifford 12-10-6	Mr P O'Keefe (7)	83
11	11U2-4P	JURASSIC CLASSIC 33 (D,S) (B Seal) Mrs L Richards 9-10-5	B Powell	86
12	PP/F236-	MR SETASIDE 274 (D,S) (F Dickinson) J Mackie 11-10-5	T Jenks	85
13	P123P-3	POP SONG 26 (D,F,G,S) (G Roe) G Roe 12-10-4	A Tory	89
14	0-640P4	HILLWALK 30 (F,G,S) (M Shone) R Curtis 10-10-3	D Morris	[illegible]
15	45-463P	FIDDLERS PIKE 30 (C,S) Mrs R Henderson 15-10-7	Mrs R Henderson	[illegible]
16	12F25P-	SHAMARPHIL 322 (F,S) (Miss S Barraclough) R Alner 10-10-1	Miss S Barraclough	89
17	5P5-245	SILVERINO 23 (B,D,G,S) (S Burfield) S Earle 10-10-0	P Holley	89
18	22-1330	KEANO 42 (B,D,S) (Midavon Partners) P Hobbs 7-10-0	G Hogan (3)	92
19	5/3451-P	ALBERT BLAKE 44 (D,G,S) (Mrs T Kinsey) T Kinsey 9-10-0	J Lodder	80
20	0/4P330	ANDROS PRINCE 25 (G,S) (A Zafiropulo) Miss A Embiricos 11-10-0	J Ryan	87
21	4U-41F5	ITS A SNIP 33 (B,D,G,S) (Icy Fire Partners) C Mann 11-10-0	D Gallagher	82

Long handicap: Silverino 9-12, Keano 9-10, Albert Blake 9-9, Andros Prince 9-9, Its A Snip 9-7

BETTING: 5-1 Taramoss, 7-1 Court Melody, Mugoni Beach, 8-1 Spuffington, Class of Ninetytwo, 10-1 The Malakarma, 12-1 others.

1995: LUCKY LANE 11-10-11 C Maude (10-1) P Hobbs 10 ran

4.15 CLIVE GRAHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,057: 3m) (18 runners)

1	106-244	FUZZY LOGIC 35 (G,S) (Cheltenham Racing) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-10	T Jenks	84
2	1/3F3-10	PLEASURE SHARED 35 (CD,S) (T Eaves) P Hobbs 8-11-5	R Dunwoody	83
3	5111/P0	SEE ENOUGH 71 (CD,S) (J Meaden) R Buckler 8-10-11	A Tory	–
4	F/081F-0	TYRONE BRIDGE 36 (D,S) (P Green) N Walker 10-10-10	B Powell	–
5	003251	LANDED GENTRY 3 (S) (K Bell Ltd) C Broad 7-10-10	G Hogan	[illegible]
6	35-2234	OTTOWA 88 (G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 8-10-9	A P McCoy	85
7	22-P613	FATHER O'BRIEN 14 (D,G,S) (Mrs G Jenkinson) J Edwards 9-10-7	R Johnson	95
8	8/F/6P-3	TOP JAVALIN 42 (CD,S) (Mrs V Thum) J Gifford 9-10-4	Mr P O'Keefe (7)	89
9	3120-15	FORTUNES COURSE 72 (D,G,S) (Mrs A Garrett) J King 7-10-3	G Upton	90
10	P3FP-P2	LE GINNO 33 (CD,G,S) (Irish World) C Brooks 9-10-2	D Gallagher	83
11	F0-P2F0	THE BOILER WHITE 26 (F,S) (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 6-10-1	M A Fitzgerald	91
12	404-000	RIMOUSKI 14 (D,G) (J Stevenson) B Cambidge 8-10-0	Mr J Cambidge	92
13	1130-0	THERMAL WARRIOR 33 (S) (Kenneth Mani) J Old 8-10-0	Mr G Baines (7)	–
14	322P60	KALASADI 28 (B,F) (G Lesson) Miss J Doyle 5-10-0	P Holley	89
15	032-351	ST VILLE 26 (D,G,S) (Melplash Racing) R Buckler 10-10-0	G Supple	89
16	001-300	PRINCE OF SALERNO 28 (B,S) (C Walford) N Gaselee 9-10-0	F Cooper	94
17	3-032F0	ROYAL PIPER 23 (S) (A Darlington) A J Wilson 9-10-0	R Greene	88
18	20P10/0	MAKES ME GOOSEY 25 (D,S) (Alfordshire Ltd) Mrs I McKie 8-10-0	L Harvey	–

Long handicap: Rimouski 9-13, Thermal Warrior 9-13, Kalasadi 9-11, St Ville 9-10, Prince Of Salerno 9-10, Royal Piper 9-9, Makes Me Goosey 9-4

BETTING: 5-1 Landed Gentry, 7-1 Fuzzy Logic, Le Ginno, 8-1 Father O'Brien, Pleasure Shared, 10-1 Ottowa, Fortunes Course, 12-1 others.

1995: PRAGADA 12-11-4 P Hide (4-1) R Rowe 6 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Pipe	54	203	26.6	A P McCoy	8	27	29.6
J Old	7	27	25.9	R Dunwoody	29	111	26.1
J White	4	17	23.5	J Lower	8	33	24.2
P Hobbs	16	71	22.5	W Marston	7	46	15.2
N Twiston-Davies	20	94	21.3	M A Fitzgerald	8	58	13.8
J King	4	30	30.0	No other qualifiers			

☐ David Nicholson, the trainer, and his amateur rider, Richard Johnson, completed a double at Sandown Park yesterday with Arthur's Minstrel and Hurricane Lamp. Arthur's Minstrel had to survive an objection after his narrow defeat of Cuddy Dale in the Stag Handicap Chase. But it was plain sailing for the promising Hurricane Lamp in the Sandown Standard Open National Hunt Flat race.

Che lives among treasured elite of keepers of noble art

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

A great, great day for this column. Yes, I have found another renaisance goalie to go with my ng-treasured collection of ustodians of the higher moality. There is a new name to et alongside those of Albert 'amus, Vladimir Nabokov, ulio Iglesias and the Pope. tep forward Che Guevara, e Argentina-born revoluonary whose romanticised atures glared tough but ıring from a million bedsit alls in the 1960s. At last, otball followers can say tru: Che Lives!

The all-important facts of he's goalkeeping career were evealed by Annamaria lerrea; his stepmother, who in Rome talking about a ossible film of Che's life, with ittorio Cecchi Gori, a film roducer and the president of iorentina Football Club.

Che "suffered from asthma, ut never gave up football", eñora Herrea fascinatingly evealed. "This was why he ecided to play as goalkeeper." here are obviously frightfully nportant issues here to do ith goalkeeping, the nature f leaders of men, and the uban revolution; but perap[illegible] we had better save them r another week.

Pointed argument

: has always baffled this olumn that archery and rifle nooting — sports that require illness rather than moveent, cold nerve rather than ot inspiration — should be in e Olympic Games, while arts is not recognised as a oort at all, at least, not in this untry. However, the British Darts Organisation (BDO) is launching a campaign to change all this. Under the brilliant acronym of DARTS — Darts As a Recognised True Sport — the BDO will campaign for its right and proper place in sporting life. Olly Croft, the BDO general secretary, said: "The Sports Council dismisses darts as a pastime, while recognising clay-pigeon shooting, fishing, pool and synchronised swimming as sports. The BDO is not saying that these sports do not deserve recognition, but surely a non-contact sport like darts, which provides equal opportunities for men and women, is enjoyed by the disabled and the blind, and in which we rule the world, merits Sports Council recognition?" You cannot argue with facts like that.

It's a message from the darts lobby
SPORTS COUNCIL

Cricket revolution

As the England cricketers continue to flail about in this World Cup, they should meditate on Che Guevara. Not — or not necessarily — his revolutionary ardour, but as the next threat to England's position in world cricket. Argentina recently won the first South American cricket championship with a team, not of ageing expats, like most of the other teams in the competition, but of young bloods for whom Spanish is the first language. Is Argentinian-Spanish destined to follow Afrikaans as the newest great language of cricket? To speak Argentinian-Spanish convincingly, you must use the word *che*, meaning mate, or pal, at least once per sentence. It was this linguistic tic that gave Guevara his cognomen. Ernesto Lives would not sound right, would it?

Indecent haste

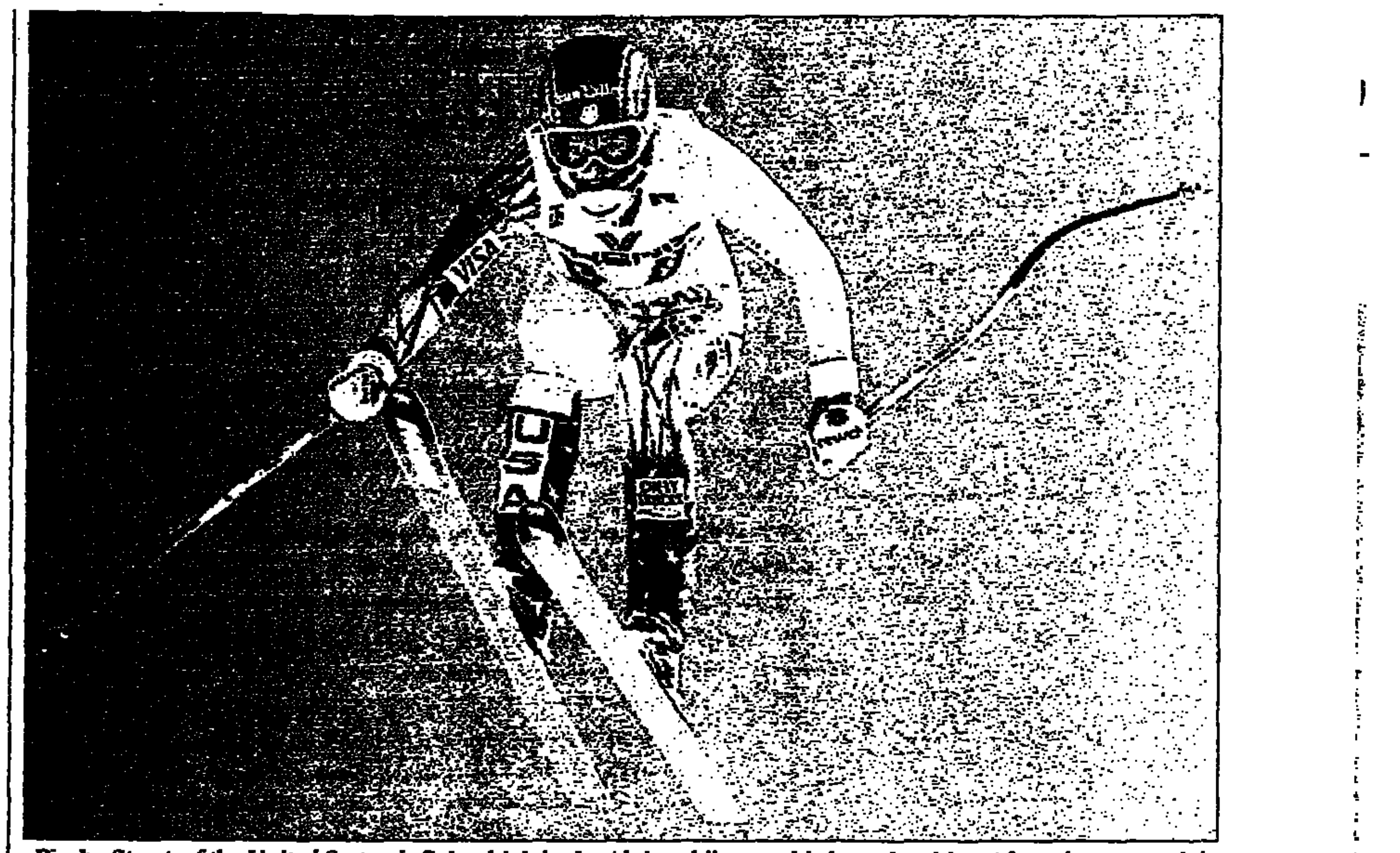
Hastings Gardens. That was to be the name of a new housing development near Murrayfield, the Scottish rugby union ground. The development coincided with the decision of the renowned Scotland captain to retire; but, alas, Edinburgh District Council is likely to veto the name. Its objection: Hastings is insufficiently dead.

Court out

David Letterman, the American late-night talk show host, found the sight of an overweight woman dribbling peach juice at the US Open tennis championships irresistibly amusing. Letterman used the clip of this unfortunate moment as a running gag, referring to her as "a seductive temptress". Audiences howled with laughter, but not Jane Bronstein, the lady in question. She suffers from a thyroid complaint, has had polio, and has suffered two spinal fusion operations — and she is suing Letterman for invasion of privacy.

Last laugh

Greetings to Lamine Gueye, of Senegal, the only skier in a country notably short on mountains, let alone snow, who marched in the opening ceremony of the Alpine skiing world championships last Sunday. Not alone. With him was Alberto Storti, an Italian comic in black-face, wearing a curly wig. "I think the world could do with a sense of humour," Gueye said. Not so the Senegalese sports ministry, which is considering withdrawing Gueye's licence to represent the country. Gueye pays all his own expenses to compete, raced at the 1984 and 1992 Winter Olympics, and is a tremendously consistent performer. Always last.



Picabo Street, of the United States, is flying high in the Alpine skiing world championships. After a bronze medal in the super-giant slalom, she won the downhill section of the combined event yesterday. Results, page 51

Thomson masters spirited Kerkow

By Gordon Allan

ANDY THOMSON, of England, champion for the past two years, advanced to the last 16 of the Churchill Insurance world indoor bowls championships singles with a 7-5, 7-6, 7-5 win over Kelvin Kerkow, of Australia, at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday. He plays David Corkill, of Ireland, on Tuesday.

Thomson had anticipated a testing match and got it. After taking the first set, he dropped four shots on the second end of the second set and went 6-0 down; but, as he said later, he forced himself to stick at it, and duly edged two sets in front.

The final set lasted 11 ends. Both players saved set lies. Kerkow managed to come in with saving bowls or kill ends several times before Thomson claimed the shot that mattered. "I decided to try something different early on and changed to long jacks," Thomson said. "It seemed to work because Kelvin had a few bad ends after that."

During the fortnight before the championships, Thomson practised intensively at the Stevenage club, which has a carpet similar in pace to Preston's, but he feels that there are still one or two weaknesses in his game.

Margaret Johnston, the remaining woman in the field, failed to win a set, and scored only five shots, against John Price, the 1990 champion. There is sure to be speculation about the future of women in this event; since they were introduced last year, they have not won a match.

The World Bowls Players' Association, at its annual meeting at Preston, has changed its name to the Professional Bowlers' Association and proposed the formation of a new body to develop a World Bowls Tour, similar to that in golf, which would operate with 12 annual events.

Results, page 51

Foley fears sprint finish

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

ANOLI faces just three opponents in today's Red Mills urdle at Gowran Park and, hile on form he is in a ifferent class to them, his ainer, Tom Foley, is anxious hat the race does not turn into sprint.

Foley said yesterday: "I on't want a slowly-run race ut it looks like the others will it in behind and wait, which on't suit us. Danoli is a horse at doesn't do a lot in the lead. le won't go 20 or 30 lengths in ont but if he's able to race in ehind he really takes a hold f the bit.

"[illegible] want a real race at [illegible]ran. It would be ideal if a ont-runner like Mysilv was [illegible]it, because she would make [illegible] race and give Danoli the ort of test he'll get in the hampion."

The most dangerous of Danoli's three opponents is likely to be the former top novice, Tiananmen Square, who has switched this season from Noel Meade to Aidan O'Brien's thriving yard. He was returning from a long lay-off when third to Derrymoyle at Punchestown recently.

O'Brien, however, does not see a possible slow gallop suiting his charge. He said: "Our horse is a Stayers' Hurdle horse, while Danoli is a Champion Hurdle contender, so if they go a walk we have no chance. Tiananmen Square just stays. I just hope he gives a good account of himself."

Anything but a comfortable success for **Danoli**, despite Foley's other concern about the very soft ground, will be a surprise.

There are a number of Cheltenham Festival trials at Punchestown tomorrow. The most informative race could be the Chapmans Landrover Novices' Hurdle, where **Akhiyar** can book his ticket for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

The Michael O'Brien-trained gelding showed improved form to beat Urbande at Leopardstown last month, and over tomorrow's two miles Akhiyar should have the edge over the Sun Alliance Hurdle candidate Galetollah.

Edward O'Grady's **Ventana Canyon** can book his place in the Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham with success in the IAWS Novices' Chase, while **Antapoura** can earn her place in the Triumph Hurdle line-up by taking the Murphys Juvenile Hurdle.

WARWICK

HUNDERER

.40 Tejano Gold. 2.10 Sticky Money. 2.45 Air Shot. .15 Ebullient Equiname. 3.50 River Lossie. 4.25 he Frog Prince. 4.55 Royaltino.

OING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

1.40 BANBURY HANDICAP HURDLE
3,451: 2m) (12 runners)

1 -210 DISTANT ECHO 198 (D,F,G) D Arbuthnot 6-12-0 S McNeill
2 0-60 MARINER'S AIR 58 (CD,G,S) J Spearing 9-11-12 L Wyer
3 4220 TEJANO GOLD 14 (D,G,S) P Bradley 6-11-5 P Carberry
4 P551 KING ATHELSTAN 28 (D,F,G,S) K Morgan 8-11-5 A S Smith
5 212P TIGHT FIST 86 (F) Miss H Knight 6-11-0 G F Ryan (5)
6 603- RICH LIFE 301 (D,G) C Weedon 6-11-0 B Fenton (3)
7 -040 PETITJEAN 23 (D,S) D Burchell 5-10-11 D J Burchell
8 4236 TWICE A NIGHT 25 (D,BF,F) D Nicholson 7-10-11 A Maguire
9 2F51 DUBAI FALCON 189 (D,F) R Dickin 5-10-8 Philip Hughes (7)
10 3PU2 BANANA COVE 73 (F) W Clay 5-10-7 Guy Lewis (3)
11 0222 GOLDINGO 5 (D,BF,S) G Price 9-10-5 J R Kavanagh
12 /P0- ONE TO NOTE 380 (D,S) M Muggeridge 12-10-0 M Molloy (7)

-1 King Athelstan, 9-2 Distant Echo, 6-1 Tejano Gold, Rich Life, 8-1 Banana Cove, oldingo, 10-1 Twice A Night, 12-1 others.

2.10 STUDLEY HANDICAP HURDLE
2,829: 2m 4f 110yd) (20)

1 3P-0 ALLEZ WIJINS 30 (G,S) N Henderson 7-12-0 J R Kavanagh
2 /44 DERAB 25 (D,G,S) S Sherwood 10-11-10 A S Smith
3 5F20 JENZSOPH 28 (S) P Hobbs 5-11-8 A Maguire
4 2P-0 ROSMARINO 42 W Jenks 6-11-8 S Wynne
5 3143 LEAD VOCALIST 25 (D,G,S) R Rowe 7-11-7 D O'Sullivan
6 3FP2 HE'S A KING 30 (F) C Popham 6-11-7 T Dascombe (5)
7 003- MARINERS MIRROR 375 (D,G,S) N T-Davies 9-11-5 Mr M Rimell
8 F/1- BASS ROCK 493 (F,S) I Balding 8-11-3 B Fenton (3)
9 2-55 STICKY MONEY 25 (S) M Pipe 8-11-1 Jamie Evans
10 5-30 IMA DELIGHT 58 (CD,S) Mrs P Sly 9-11-0 R Marley
11 6050 FLY BY NORTH 42 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 8-10-11 X Aizpuru (7)
12 00-0 AINSI SOIT IL 39 F Murphy 5-10-9 P Carberry
13 5640 HUNTERS' HEAVEN 31 J Mackie 5-10-8 E Husband (3)
14 0354 KADARI 30 (S) W Clay 7-10-8 Guy Lewis (3)
15 13-0 MARINE SOCIETY 31 (S) A Newcombe 8-10-4 L Wyer
16 -430 ALASKAN HEIR 37 (D,G,S) A Streeter 5-10-0 T Eley
17 4P40 WIZZO 25 (F) B Pulling 6-10-0 O Burrows (7)
18 6-4P MO ICHI DO 63 (B,D,F,G,S) Miss S Wilton 10-10-0 Sophie Mitchell (5)
19 P-PP RONANS GLEN 73 (F) M Wilkinson 9-10-0 P Crowley (7)
20 50FP RADIO CAROLINE 64 M Tate 8-10-0 D Finnegan (7)

-1 Lead Vocalist, 7-1 Derab, 8-1 Bass Rock, He's A King, 10-1 Sticky Money, ariners Mirror, 12-1 others.

2.45 KINGMAKER NOVICES CHASE
Grade II: £11,900: 2m) (4)

1 -U12 AIR SHOT 35 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 6-11-5 A Maguire
2 2-31 ARCTIC KINSMAN 39 (G,S) N T-Davies 8-11-5 C Llewellyn
3 -406 GAMBOLLING DOC 16 (F,G,S) P Mullins (Ire) 6-11-5 T Horgan
4 -203 SUBLIME FELLOW 28 (GF,G) N Henderson 6-11-5 J R Kavanagh

-4 Arctic Kinsman, 2-1 Air Shot, 5-2 Sublime Fellow, 8-1 Gambolling Doc.

3.15 COVENTRY CITY NOVICES TRIAL HURDLE
£7,880: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 0-11 COLONEL IN CHIEF 38 (S) F Murphy 6-11-12 P Carberry
2 1111 SIMPLY DASHING 37 (D,F,G,S) T Easterby 5-11-12 L Wyer
3 1283 DIVERTIMIENTO 14 (S) J Mackie 5-11-8 E Husband
4 3-12 EBULLIENT EQUINAME 35 (G,S) N Henderson 5-11-8 J R Kavanagh
5 -112 GUINDA 42 (F) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-7 C Llewellyn
6 0-1 JACK TANNER 27 (S) D Nicholson 7-11-3 A Maguire
7 00- SWEET TRENTINO 182F M Tate 5-11-3 B Fenton

9-4 Simply Dashing, 5-2 Ebullient Equiname, 5-1 Colonel In Chief, 6-1 Guinda, 7-1 Divertimiento, 8-1 Jack Tanner, 33-1 Sweet Trentino.

3.50 YOUNG PRETENDER NOVICES CHASE
(£6,970: 3m 2f) (4)

1 -321 RIVER LOSSIE 7 (G,S) C Egerton 7-11-10 J A McCarthy
2 051P SO FAR BOLD 35 (B,S) F Doumen (Fr) 6-11-10 Philippe Chevalier
3 2143 BEAUREPAIRE 28 (D,S) R Alner 8-11-6 S McNeill
4 P-13 SUFFOLK ROAD 77 (F,G,S) R Rowe 9-11-6 D O'Sullivan

5-4 River Lossie, 6-4 So Far Bold, 7-2 Suffolk Road, 14-1 Beaurepaire.

4.25 CROSSBEE & ATKINS HANDICAP CHASE
(£7,263: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 42P- CYPHRATE 338 (C,G,S) M Pipe 10-11-12 Jamie Evans
2 1F-F BEECH ROAD 134 (CD,F,G,S) G Balding 14-11-9 B Fenton (3)
3 F-RR BIBENDUM 94 (D,F,G,S) R Waley-Cohen 10-11-7 J R Kavanagh
4 54-5 KATABATIC 37 (D,F,G,S) J Gifford 13-11-4 S McNeill
5 -242 THE FROG PRINCE 35 (B,D,F,S) N Gaselee 8-10-13 C Llewellyn
6 0-40 ENCORE UN PEU 35 (BF,G,S) M Pipe 9-10-13 A Maguire
7 4-12 FILE CONCORD 71 (CD,BF,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 12-10-5 P Carberry
8 2-2F OLD BRIDGE 85 (D,G,S) A Turnell 8-10-0 G Crone (7)
9 1F1F EASBY JOKER 37 (D,G,S) S Kettlewell 8-10-0 DOUBTFUL

5-2 The Frog Prince, 4-1 Easby Joker, File Concord, 5-1 Katabatic, 7-1 Cyphrate, 8-1 Bibendum, 10-1 Encore Un Peu, 12-1 others.

4.55 WARWICK STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,867: 2m) (25)

1 11 MIGHTY MOSS 44 (S) D Nicholson 5-11-13 Mr F Hutsby (7)
2 BARRISTERS BOY J Old 5-11-3 D Creech (7)
3 CALON LAN N Henderson 5-11-3 Mr C Vigors (5)
4 DON'T MIND IF I DO P Webber 5-11-3 Mr P Scott (7)
5 46 GOATSFUT 86 B Preece 6-11-3 D Finnegan (7)
6 GREG'S PROFILES N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 Mr M Rimell
7 GROSVENOR F Murphy 5-11-3 Capt A Ogden
8 JOE'S BIRTHDAY P Webber 6-11-3 Mr J Darlow
9 KIND CLERIC P Hobbs 5-11-3 G Tormey (3)
10 LARKROSS S Mellor 5-11-3 Chris Webb (5)
11 BEWITCH I Balding 6-10-12 B Fenton (3)
12 0-30 GEMINI MIST 105 Mrs P Dutfield 5-10-12 Michael Hunt (7)
13 GRAMPAS' GIRL G Jones 6-10-12 O Burrows (7)
14 HAZZA CHANCE W Mann 6-10-12 Mr D Verco
15 LADY MUCKY DUCK G Balding 6-10-12 S Fox (5)
16 LANDA'S COUNSEL D Gandolfo 5-10-12 Sophie Mitchell (5)
17 FRED FUGGLES C Jackson 4-10-7 G F Ryan (5)
18 GINJA NINJA S Kettlewell 4-10-7 S Porritt (7)
19 INSUBORDINATE R Juckes 4-10-7 E Husband (3)
20 ROSS SPORTING F Jordan 4-10-7 R Massey (5)
21 ROYALTINO F Doumen (Fr) 4-10-7 Mr T Doumen (7)
22 TANGO MAN R Price 4-10-7 T Dascombe (5)
23 AMAZON HEIGHTS L Cottrell 4-10-2 Guy Lewis (3)
24 BAY FAIR J Bosley 4-10-2 Paul Thompson (7)
25 BEL-DE-MOOR M Muggeridge 4-10-2 M Molloy (7)

2-1 Royaltino, 9-4 Mighty Moss, 7-1 Calon Lan, 10-1 Bewitch, Greg's Profiles, 12-1 Barristers Boy, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Price, 5 winners from 17 runners, 29.4%; M Pipe, 31 from 121, 25.6%; N A Gaselee, 10 from 40, 25.0%; Miss H Knight, 8 from 34, 23.5%; D Nicholson, 25 from 110, 22.7%; Mrs J Pitman, 17 from 87, 19.5%.

JOCKEYS: L Wyer, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; Mr M Rimell, 3 from 12, 25.0%; A Maguire, 17 from 84, 20.2%; C Llewellyn, 7 from 45, 15.6%. No other qualifiers.

Swinburn on course for full recovery

WALTER SWINBURN is making excellent progress after sustaining serious head and chest injuries in a fall at Sha Tin racecourse, Hong Kong, last Sunday.

"We anticipate him making a full recovery. He'll ride a horse again," said Dr Tom Buckley, director of intensive care at the Prince of Wales hospital. "He's been taken off the ventilator. He's done remarkably well. This is probably a reflection of how strong and fit he is," he added.

Swinburn's girlfriend, Brit Eldrup, who has been at his bedside since Tuesday, said: "He's keen to get back in the saddle. He remembers everything, including riding the horse and going through the rails." But Buckley added that there was no chance of Swinburn riding again in Hong Kong this season.

WINDSOR

THUNDERER

1.50 Steel Moss. 2.25 Silverfort Lad. 2.55 Darter. 3.25 Lusty Light. 4.00 Flapjack Lad. 4.30 Inculcate. 5.00 Seasonal Splendour.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

1.50 KING JOHN NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,896: 2m 6f 110yd) (14 runners)

1 1420 KEEP IT ZIPPED 35 (F) O Sherwood 6-11-6 J A McCarthy
2 -210 MALWOOD CASTLE 35 (G) (C) R Alner 6-11-6 W McFarland
3 4U61 MYSTIC ISLE 31 (CD,S) N Gaselee 6-11-6 A Thornton
4 0 BATTLE LORD CISTO 14 R Buckler 8-11-0 M Richards
5 000/ COTSWOLD CASTLE 665 S Earle 10-11-0 C Maude
6 0P6 DANNY GALE 43 G McCourt 5-11-0 G McCourt
7 6244 GLITTER ISLE 14 J Gifford 6-11-0 P Hide
8 MUSIC CLASS C Brooks 5-11-0 G Bradley
9 423 STEEL MOSS 36 C Barwell 7-11-0 B Clifford
10 0-0 ZIP YOUR LIP 78 Mrs P Townsley 6-11-0 Miss Lucy Townsley (7)
11 LADY MARIE G Roe 7-10-9 W Humphreys
12 /40- MARYJO 77F (B) Miss C Caroe 7-10-9 R Davis
13 F QUOTE 33 G Balding 9-10-9 J Railton
14 00 THE SMILING GIRL 33 P Jones 6-10-9 D Leahy

2-1 Keep It Zipped, 7-2 Malwood Castle, 9-2 Glitter Isle, 6-1 Mystic Isle, 8-1 Music Class, 10-1 Steel Moss, 12-1 Quote, 14-1 others.

2.25 MAGNA CARTA NOVICES CHASE
(£3,560: 2m 5f) (13)

1 P3U1 SILVERFORT LAD 33 (B,G,S) T Casey 7-11-10 G Bradley
2 023/ ARTFUL ARTHUR 628 (G) L Grassick 10-11-3 Mr J Grassick
3 4-33 BALLY CLOVER 31 (G,S) Miss V Williams 9-11-3 R Davis
4 340/ BATHWICK BOBBIE 623 D Williams 9-11-3 Miss S Higgins (7)
5 -2PU CREDON 24 S Woodman 8-11-3 K Gaule (3)
6 0F LANCE ARMSTRONG 33 G McCourt 6-11-3 G McCourt
7 F32U LUCKY DOLLAR 88 (B,BF,S) K Bailey 8-11-3 A Thornton
8 1-20 OSCAIL AN DORAS 231 (BF,F) F Murphy 7-11-3 M Foster
9 441- PONGO WARING 332 (G,S) Miss H Knight 7-11-3 J F Titley
10 SUPER GOSSIP 644P (F) P Hedger 7-11-3 M Richards
11 0P/P THE OVERTRUMPER 85 G Roe 9-11-3 W Humphreys
12 256F VILLAINS BRIEF 24 (V) K Burke 7-11-3 A Larnach (3)
13 U0B0 MISS PIMPERNEL 38 (F) A Barrow 6-10-12 S Burrough

9-4 Silverfort Lad, 3-1 Lucky Dollar, 9-2 Pongo Waring, 6-1 Oscail An Doras, 8-1 Lance Armstrong, 10-1 Bally Clover, 12-1 Super Gossip, 14-1 others.

2.55 HATCH BRIDGE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£4,955: 2m) (20)

1 2211 DARTER 31 (CD,S) R Akehurst 11-2 S Ryan
2 BIDE OUR TIME 175F G Roe 10-12 W Humphreys
3 DANEGOLD 121F (V) M Channon 10-12 A Thornton
4 221 DANJING 30 (D,G) S Sherwood 10-12 M Richards
5 00 DARIUS THE GREAT 85 D Marks 10-12 R Davis
6 DENOMINATION 488F I Balding 10-12 J Railton
7 03 DEYMIAR 29 D Gandolfo 10-12 D Leahy
8 EXCLUSIVE ASSEMBLY 14F A James 10-12 V Slattery
9 00 FLOW BACK 45 G Enright 10-12 R Bellamy
10 HAND WOVEN 109F N Twiston-Davies 10-12 C Maude
11 P0 INDONESIAN 14 (B) C Brooks 10-12 G Bradley
12 3100 KILCORAN BAY 35 (V,CD,G,S) I Balding 10-12 J F Titley
13 KRATON GARDEN 287F T Casey 10-12 E Murphy
14 SNOWY PETREL 120F K Bailey 10-12 T J Murphy
15 0 VICTORY TEAM 35 G Balding 10-12 B Clifford
16 15 WATCH MY LIPS 35 (D,G) M Tompkins 10-12 P Maher
17 5631 ZINGIBAR 23 (V,D,S) J Bradley 10-12 D Fortt
18 0 EQUITY'S DARLING 31 D O'Brien 10-7 P Hide
19 KATIE OLIVER 26F B Smart 10-7 W Marston
20 STAR ANISE 164F Mrs D Haine 10-7 G McCourt

9-4 Danjing, 3-1 Darter, 9-2 Hand Woven, 6-1 Kilcoran Bay, 8-1 Deymiar, 10-1 Danegold, Watch My Lips, 12-1 Denomination, Snowy Petrel, 14-1 others.

3.25 FAIRLAWNE CHASE (£7,276: 3m) (3)

1 0-RR COMMERCIAL ARTIST 42 (D,G,S) N Gaselee 10-11-12 A Thornton
2 211- HERMES HARVEST 259 (D,F,G) D Williams 8-11-4 G Bradley
3 F-P4 LUSTY LIGHT 37 (D,F,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-4 W Marston

2-5 Lusty Light, 7-2 Hermes Harvest, 6-1 Commercial Artist.

4.00 STAINES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,469: 2m 5f) (17)

1 5P26 GIVUS A BUCK 7 (B,D,F,G,S) D Elsworth 13-12-0 A Procter (3)
2 -12F ASK THE GOVERNOR 71 (F,G,S) G Balding 10-11-13 Mr A Balding (7)
3 P5PF JAILBREAKER 28 (G,S) B Millman 9-11-13 G McCourt
4 322- LADY GHISLAINE 325 (D,G,S) T McGovern 9-11-12 W McFarland
5 2-5P ARDCRONEY CHIEF 93 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 10-11-8 D Fortt (5)
6 2220 L'UOMO PIU 2 (BF,F,G,S) A Barrow 12-11-5 S Burrough
7 -143 RAINBOW CASTLE 115 (G) J Gifford 9-11-4 L Aspell (5)
8 -FP4 TALE OF ENDURANCE 31 (S) C Mann 8-10-13 J Railton
9 1/FU WYLAM 29 (F,G,S) J Gifford 9-10-11 P Hide
10 4434 CORLY SPECIAL 28 (V,F,G,S) K Burke 9-10-11 A Larnach (3)
11 PF30 TIME ENOUGH 31 (S) C Brooks 7-10-11 G Bradley
12 3/PP DEEPENDABLE 24 (V,G) Mrs L Richards 9-10-8 M Richards
13 F62/ TROJAN CALL 851 (D,G) R Rowe 9-10-5 W Marston
14 -440 CAPO CASTANUM 30 Miss H Knight 7-10-5 J F Titley
15 5-2F SIZZLING AFFAIR 85 M Wilkinson 7-10-3 P Crowley (7)
16 534P MAGSOTS GREEN 5 (F,S) J Bradley 9-10-0 T J Murphy (3)
17 53F3 FLAPJACK LAD 28 (S) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0 C Maude

5-1 Ask The Governor, 6-1 Rainbow Castle, 7-1 Flapjack Lad, 8-1 Capo Castanum, 10-1 Sizzling Affair, Corly Special, L'Uomo Piu, 12-1 others.

4.30 RUNNYMEDE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,535: 2m) (10)

1 0005 TEEN JAY 23 (D,F,G,S) R Stronge 6-12-0 R Stronge
2 2-P0 BUTLER'S TWITCH 70 (B,D,G,S) O Sherwood 9-12-0 M Richards
3 0-10 SIMPLY 25 (D,F,G,S) T McGovern 7-11-9 T J Murphy (3)
4 2341 INCULCATE 25 (B,D,S) C Weedon 5-11-6 D Fortt (5)
5 5520 HOW'S IT GOIN 25 (D,F,G) W Muir 5-11-4 G McCourt
6 63U0 WHIPPERS DELIGHT 35 (CD,G,S) G Charles-Jones 8-11-3 W McFarland
7 54/F PERFAY 30 (D,S) R Baker 8-11-2 V Slattery
8 5/1- FROWN 341 (S) F Murphy 6-11-2 M Foster
9 1P1/ MOAT GARDEN 779 (S) I Balding 8-11-1 G Bradley
10 1/0P SHANAKEE 93 (BF,F) B Llewellyn 9-10-0 Mr J L Llewellyn

2-1 Inculcate, 4-1 How's It Goin, 5-1 Moat Garden, 6-1 Simply, 8-1 others.

5.00 KING JOHN NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,875: 2m 6f 110yd) (14)

1 1 DELIGHT 150 (S) K Bailey 5-11-6 G Bradley
2 -215 HAUNTING MUSIC 28 (D,G) G Harwood 8-11-6 M Richards
3 3-13 SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 35 (BF,S) M Pipe 6-11-1 C Maude
4 0 FINE IDEA 29 T Casey 7-11-0 E Murphy
5 526 FINE STALKER 14 D Caro 8-11-0 G McCourt
6 0PU PYRRHIC VICTORY 30 (V) R Stronge 5-11-0 R Stronge
7 RAGGED KINGDOM C Egerton 7-11-0 W McFarland
8 -040 SMOKEY THUNDER 215 S Woodman 6-11-0 K Gaule (3)
9 532 THE GREY FRIAR 43 Miss H Knight 7-11-0 J F Titley
10 00/0 THE MEXICANS GONE 79 D Geraghty 8-11-0 V Slattery
11 2/20 THE REVEREND BERT 14 G Balding 8-11-0 J Railton
12 00-0 DANCING BAREFOOT 26 M Bolton 7-10-9 L Aspell (5)
13 0-F0 FARLEYER ROSE 25 H Rowsell 7-10-9 A S Smith
14 -36P TURRET 44 R Brotherton 5-10-9 T Eley

7-4 Seasonal Splendour, 4-1 Haunting Music, 11-2 Delight, 7-1 The Grey Friar, 10-1 The Reverend Bert, 12-1 Ragged Kingdom, 14-1 Fine Stalker, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Brooks, 5 winners from 16 runners, 31.3%; D Elsworth, 6 from 21, 28.6%; G Balding, 4 from 20, 20.0%; Miss H Knight, 9 from 47, 19.1%; D Gandolfo, 3 from 16, 18.8%; P Hedger, 5 from 27, 18.5%.

JOCKEYS: G McCourt, 7 winners from 38 rides, 18.4%; J Titley, 3 from 17, 17.6%; G Bradley, 4 from 31, 12.9%; B Clifford, 3 from 24, 12.5%; E Murphy, 3 from 29, 10.3%; J Railton, 5 from 50, 10.0%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Dancing Sioux. 2.50 Awasha. 3.20 Moi Canard. 3.50 Montecristo. 4.20 Perilous Plight. 4.50 One Off The Rail.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.20 Dancing Sioux. 2.50 Awasha. 3.50 MONTECRISTO (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 DOROTHY L SAYERS APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£2,914: 7f) (10)

1 60-1 DANCING SIOUX 7 (D,G) R Guest 4-10-0 F Lynch (3) 3
2 6226 HAWAII STORM 7 (CD,BF,G,S) D ffrench Davis 8-9-13 C Adamson (3) 9
3 0-34 DEEPLY VALE 26 (D,S) G L Moore 5-9-10 A Lakeman (5) 7
4 0-05 MASTER MILLFIELD 18 (CD,F,G) C Hill 4-9-10 C Teague 4
5 08-5 MY GALLERY 7 (D,G,S) A Bailey 5-9-1 Angela Gallimore (5) 10
6 /00- THOMAS CROWN 275 N Walker 4-9-0 D Griffiths 2
7 2-00 MAID WELCOME 14 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-0 Amanda Sanders (3) 6
8 0015 MISTER RAIDER 7 (B,C,G) S Mellor 4-8-9 A Daly (3) 8
9 5-06 PANTHER 7 (B,G,S) J Hetherton 6-8-3 L Newton 1
10 -060 LADY ELIZABETH 18 (B) K Cunningham-Brown 4-7-10 M Baird 5

7-4 Dancing Sioux, 4-1 Hawaii Storm, 6-1 Deeply Vale, Mister Raider, 8-1 others.

2.50 HELEN McINNES MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,599: 5f) (10)

1 6-40 RENNYHOLME 26 (B) J Hetherton 5-9-10 N Adams 5
2 2332 AWASHA 9 (BF) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-5 L Dettori 7
3 TAYLORS REVIVAL H Collingridge 5-9-5 N Carlisle 6
4 -060 CHILLAM 12 J Leigh 3-8-10 D McKeown 2
5 -233 ROWLANDSONS STUD 11 (BF) G L Moore 3-8-10 M Fenton 9
6 -332 BOUTON D'OR 21 P Howling 3-8-5 J Quinn 3
7 00- DOUBLE IMPRESSION 118 J L Harris 3-8-5 D R McCabe (3) 8
8 0-56 ELFIN QUEEN 17 J L Harris 3-8-5 S Sanders 4
9 30- LINCON TWENTY ONE 308 M Haynes 3-8-5 M Baird (5) 10
10 0- PING-PONG BALL 306 T Watson 3-8-5 S D Williams 1

6-4 Awasha, 3-1 Rowlandsons Stud, 5-1 Bouton D'Or, Elfin Queen, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Brittain, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%; N Walker, 8 from 32, 25.0%; G Lewis, 17 from 69, 24.6%; T Barron, 7 from 30, 23.3%; Lord Huntingdon, 38 from 172, 22.1%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 65 winners from 249 rides, 26.1%; J Weaver, 63 from 273, 23.1%; R Cochrane, 50 from 277, 18.1%; T Ives, 21 from 119, 17.6%; D McKeown, 19 from 110, 17.3%; S Whitworth, 22 from 136, 16.2%.

3.20 GEORGETTE HEYER CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,517: 7f) (6)

1 11-1 KRYSTAL MAX 42 (C,F,G) T Barron 9-3 Kimberley Hart (7) 1
2 -821 MOI CANARD 9 (CD,F,G) B Pearce 8-11 D R McCabe (3) 6
3 120- VERA'S FIRST 77 (B,CD,G) G Lewis 8-2 A Whelan (3) 2
4 506- TRIBLE PET 156 B Gubby 8-0 J Quinn 5
5 -253 BELLS OF HOLLAND 25 (V) W Muir 7-12 Martin Dwyer (7) 3
6 64-0 NO SYMPATHY 25 (F) G L Moore 7-12 N Adams 4

6-4 Krystal Max, 9-4 Moi Canard, 6-1 Vera's First, 7-1 No Sympathy, 8-1 Bells Of Holland, 12-1 Trible Pet.

3.50 EVELYN ANTHONY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,132: 1m 3f) (7)

1 01-0 LE SPORT 24 (G) A Bailey 9-7 D Wright (3) 7
2 01 TORMOUNT 21 (C,G) Lord Huntingdon 9-2 T Ives 1
3 0-41 MONTECRISTO 7 (CD,G) R Guest 9-2 L Dettori 5
4 0-43 GALAPINO 7 C Brittain 8-12 M Larsen 6
5 5221 DOMOOR 2 (BF,G) M Johnston 8-8 (5ex) J Weaver 2
6 1212 ROWLANDSONS CHARM 4 (C,BF,G) G L Moore 8-7 N Adams 4
7 -310 THORNTOUN ESTATE 1 (CD,G) M Johnston 8-7 D McKeown 3

9-4 Montecristo, 7-2 Tormount, 9-2 Galapino, 11-2 Domoor, 8-1 Thorntoun Estate, 10-1 Rowlandsons Charm, 16-1 Le Sport.

4.20 AGATHA CHRISTIE SELLING STAKES
(£2,222: 1m) (6)

1 001- MEDIA EXPRESS 351 (D,G,S) M Brittain 4-9-6 R Cochrane 1
2 -003 JUSTINIANUS 9 (G,S) J Bridger 4-9-0 J Quinn 5
3 2436 PERILOUS PLIGHT 11 (CD,F,G) W Muir 5-9-0 J-P Lopez 4
4 0-22 ROMAN REEL 11 (C,D,F,G) G L Moore 5-9-0 S Whitworth 2
5 53-4 DAVID JAMES' GIRL 19 (G,S) A Bailey 4-8-9 D Wright (3) 6
6 00-0 JOYFUL TIMES 36 (G) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-9 Amanda Sanders (5) 3

7-4 Perilous Plight, 5-2 Roman Reel, 4-1 Media Express, 6-1 David James' Girl, 8-1 Justinianus, 12-1 Joyful Times.

4.50 MARGERY ALLINGHAM HANDICAP
(£3,453: 1m 4f) (8)

1 115- JARAAB 84 (V,CD,G) G Lewis 5-10-0 S Whitworth 2
2 4-31 EL VOLADOR 25 (CD,F,G) C Allen 9-9-13 L Dettori 6
3 0-61 ONE OFF THE RAIL 11 (CD,F,G) A Moore 6-9-11 Candy Morris 5
4 42-5 TOY PRINCESS 10 (D,G) C Brittain 4-9-10 M Larsen 3
5 5-13 CUANGO 35 (C,D,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-6 J Weaver 7
6 36-4 BAG OF TRICKS 11 (CD,G) S Dow 6-9-3 A Daly (5) 4
7 00-6 VERDE LUNA 14 D Arbuthnot 4-9-0 R Cochrane 8
8 -420 ERRANT 17 D Cosgrove 4-8-12 J Quinn 1

3-1 El Volador, 7-2 Cuango, 4-1 One Off The Rail, 5-1 Jaraab, 6-1 Toy Princess, 12-1 Bag Of Tricks, 16-1 Verde Luna, 20-1 Errant.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newcastle: 1.25 Raby Rock. Chepstow: 2.00 Tabs; 4.15 Prince Of Salerno. Warwick: 4.25 The Frog Prince. Windsor: 2.25 Lucky Dollar; 2.55 Danegold; 4.30 Butler's Twitch; 5.00 Pyrrhic Victory. Lingfield Park: 2.20 Lady Elizabeth, Panther. 3.20 Bells Of Holland.

Foxhunter aspirants in race against time

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

THE British Horseracing Board (BHB) has looked at but rejected a plan to extend the qualification period for next month's Christies Foxhunters' Chase at the Cheltenham Festival.

After the loss of a number of point-to-points and hunter chases to frost and snow, the BHB considered changing the conditions for hunt racing's most prestigious race which states horses must have won either two open races or twice finished in the first two in hunter chases since January 1, 1994 and before February 26.

Now they say only further loss of fixtures would force a change, making the outings this weekend of Colonial Kelly, What A Hand and Wolf Winter, to name three, crucial to the big race.

Colonial Kelly wasted a journey last week from Diana Grissell's Sussex yard to Cottenham, where the ground was considered to have too much jar, and makes a similar trek to the **Thurlow** meeting at Horseheath tomorrow.

What A Hand, who won an open at Larkhill on the opening day of the season, returns there for the **United Services** fixture today under Polly Curling. His trainer, Richard Barber, also runs Still In Business and Fosbury in the same event. Wolf Winter travels from Devon to Erw Lon in Wales for the **Vale Of Clettwr** meeting.

Tim Jones may ride Wolf Winter since his regular partner, Neil Harris, is at Ottery St Mary for the **South Pool Harriers** fixture to partner stablemate Chilipour.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Essex Farmers & Union, Marks Tey, 5m west of Colchester (first race 12.30); Lanarks & Renfrews, Lanark, 2m SW of town (1.00); Old Raby Club, Witton Castle, 5m W of Bishop Auckland (12.30); Oxford Univ Club, Kingston Blount, 8m NW of High Wycombe (12.00); South Pool Harriers, Bishops Court, near Ottery St Mary (12.00); United Services, Larkhill, 5m NW of Amesbury (12.30); Vale of Clettwr, Erw Lon, 10m N of Carmarthen (12.00); West Salop Drag, Weston Park, 4m NE of Shifnal (12.00)
TOMORROW: Lincs Utd Club, Market Rasen, 16m NW of Lincoln (12.00); Thurlow, Horseheath, 4m W of Haverhill (12.00)

RESULTS FROM FOUR MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: good to soft (chase course), soft (hurdles)

1.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Sir Leonard (C Maude, 11-2); 2, Monicasman (7-4 fav); 3, Crown Equerry (2-1). 14 ran. NR: Aracle's Diamond. 1¼l, 5l. S Sherwood. Tote: £7.10; £1.50, £1.70, £1.30. DF: £8.10. Trio: £2.60. CSF: £16.87.

2.00 (2m ch) 1, Southampton (A P McCoy, 7-2); 2, Madinas Swan Song (7-1); 3, Konvekta King (5-1). Northern Saddler 11-8 fav. 5 ran. 1¾l, 15l. G Balding. Tote: £4.10; £2.00, £3.20. DF: £11.60. CSF: £21.33.

2.35 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Arthur's Minstrel (R Johnson, 14-1); 2, Cuddy Dale (9-2); 3, Philip's Woody (5-1). Run Up The Flag 3-1 fav. 9 ran. ¾l, 2l. D Nicholson. Tote: £13.50; £2.70, £1.50, £1.90. DF: £41.10. Trio: £99.10. CSF: £67.20. Tricast: £319.10. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

3.10 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Ever Smile (O Burrows, 8-1); 2, Lansdowne (13-2); 3, Darzee (3-1 fav). 15 ran. 1¾l, 6l. M Pipe. Tote: £10.00; £3.10, £3.10, £1.80. DF: £38.30. Trio: £70.70. CSF: £58.27. Tricast: £179.39.

3.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Golden Spinner (A P McCoy, 6-1); 2, Falmouth Bay (11-4); 3, Dark Honey (2-1 fav). 9 ran. 3l, nk. N Henderson. Tote: £7.30; £1.40, £1.80, £1.40. DF: £11.00. Trio: £8.00. CSF: £21.78.

4.15 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Frogmarch (J Railton, 13-2); 2, Robins Pride (11-2); 3, Hawthorne Glen (5-1). Ready To Draw 7-2 fav. 11 ran. Hd, 14l. R Phillips. Tote: £7.20; £1.90, £1.90, £2.00. DF: £19.90. Trio: £12.90. CSF: £43.12.

4.50 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Hurricane Lamp (R Johnson, 5-1 fav); 2, Johnny-K (10-1); 3, Adept Flyer (33-1). 20 ran. NR: Arctic Fusilier, Mystic March. 7l, ¾l. D Nicholson. Tote: £5.70; £3.20, £5.50, £19.50. DF: £13.60. Trio: £333.70 (part won, pool of £329.00 carried forward to 4.10 Newcastle today). CSF: £51.06.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £11,395.57 carried forward to Newcastle today).

Placepot: £46.20. Quadpot: £8.30.

Uttoxeter

Going: good (good to firm in places)

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, Debutante Days (J F Titley, 4-6 fav); 2, Edelweis Du Moulin (7-1); 3, Love The Blues (11-2). 14 ran. NR: Indonesian. 2½l, 9l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £8.20. Trio: £6.10. CSF: £7.48.

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Claverhouse (W Dwan, 6-1); 2, Bullens Bay (11-2); 3, Mandical (100-30). Tipping The Line 3-1 fav. 15 ran. NR: Potter's Bay. 3½l, 4l. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £9.80; £2.50, £2.40, £1.70. DF: £19.00. Trio: £38.10. CSF: £38.33.

2.50 (3m 2f ch) 1, Celtic Town (J A McCarthy, 7-1); 2, Donjuan Collonges (3-1); 3, Lets Rumble (7-1). Do Be Have 2-1 fav. 7 ran. ¾l, 14l. O Sherwood. Tote: £9.40; £2.90, £2.10. DF: £16.40. CSF: £27.15.

3.25 (2m hdle) 1, Charming Girl (J A McCarthy, 7-1); 2, Dream Ride (11-8 fav); 3, Weeheby (11-2). 15 ran. NR: Queen Of Spades. ½l, 1½l. O Sherwood. Tote: £8.40; £3.30, £1.50, £1.60. DF: £9.10. Trio: £22.30. CSF: £18.39.

3.55 (2m hdle) 1, Brazil Or Bust (G McCourt, 66-1); 2, Barbaroja (25-1); 3, Easy Breezy (12-1). Bob's Ploy 5-4 fav. 16 ran. ½l, 5l. P Webber. Tote: £80.50; £8.80, £9.50, £3.10. DF: £375.10. Trio: not won (pool of £172.68 carried forward to 4.10 Newcastle today). CSF: £1,059.66.

4.30 (2m 5f ch) 1, Call It A Day (A Maguire, 4-6 fav); 2, Bell Staffboy (100-30); 3, Camino (14-1). 7 ran. 1¼l, 15l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £3.30. DF: £4.10. CSF: £3.14.

5.00 (2m flat) 1, French Holly (P Carberry, 5-4 fav); 2, Dacelo (6-1); 3, Symphony's Son (7-2). 15 ran. NR: Swan Street. 4l, shd. F Murphy. Tote: £2.80; £1.10, £4.20, £2.20. DF: £17.60. Trio: £6.90. CSF: £10.53. Tote Placepot: £185.30. Quadpot: £37.70.

Fakenham

Going: good

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Lambson (M Dwyer, 8-1); 2, Kaizan (10-1); 3, Sabeel (20-1). Neverold 4-1 fav. 15 ran. 1½l, 4l. J Pearce. Tote: £9.10; £3.00, £4.50, £5.20. DF: £72.40. Trio: £228.00 (part won, pool of £289.07 carried forward to 4.10 Newcastle today). CSF: £97.84. Tricast: £1,471.72.

2.45 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Glen Mirage (Miss M Coombe, 7-1); 2, Lyme Gold (12-1); 3, Sprowston Boy (4-1). Zambezi Spirit 7-4 fav. 11 ran. ¾l, 1½l. M Coombe. Tote: £10.50; £3.50, £3.80, £1.10. DF: £73.60. Trio: £77.80. CSF: £81.45. Tricast: £343.49.

3.20 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Hooded Hawk (M A Fitzgerald, 15-8 fav); 2, Lottery Ticket (3-1); 3, Shannon Lad (40-1). 11 ran. 11l, 5l. N Henderson. Tote: £2.80; £1.20, £1.10, £8.60. DF: £3.40. Trio: £86.30. CSF: £8.39.

3.50 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Garrylough (M Dwyer, 5-2); 2, Arctic Wings (11-2); 3, Braes Of Mar (9-4 fav). 9 ran. ¾l, 25l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £5.90. Trio: £3.10. CSF: £16.96.

4.25 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Sheer Jest (Mr A Hill, 4-6 fav); 2, Gypsy King (12-1); 3, Duncan (11-4). 9 ran. 5l, 4l. W Warner. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.70, £1.40. DF: £8.30. Trio: £10.20. CSF: £9.84.

4.55 (2m hdle) 1, Manolete (D Byrne, 7-4 fav); 2, Ivy Edith (8-1); 3, Pyramis Prince (14-1). 13 ran. 1l, nk. Mrs M Jones. Tote: £3.50; £1.70, £3.00, £3.90. DF: £16.00. Trio: £143.90. CSF: £19.82. Tricast: £168.54.

Placepot: £55.70. Quadpot: £2.70.

Southwell

Going: standard

1.50 (1m 3f) 1, Dancing Cavalier (F Lynch, 5-2 fav); 2, Superoy (12-1); 3, Uoni (8-1). 11 ran. NR: Dirab. 3l, nk. R Hollinshead. Tote: £3.20; £1.20, £2.20, £4.50. DF: £18.80. Trio: £109.00 (part won, pool of £107.48 carried forward to 4.10 Newcastle today). CSF: £31.46. Tricast: £200.76.

2.25 (1m) 1, Elpetite (G Bardwell, 10-1); 2, People Direct (2-1 fav); 3, Mooncusser (5-2). 8 ran. 1l, 2l. N Bycroft. Tote: £13.80; £2.40, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £10.90. CSF: £29.67.

2.55 (6f) 1, First Maite (C Teague, 5-2 fav); 2, Kira (11-4); 3, Leigh Crofter (12-1). 10 ran. Nk, 1¾l. S Bowring. Tote: £2.40; £1.40, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £5.80. Trio: £56.00. CSF: £9.81. Tricast: £65.71.

3.30 (2m) 1, Upper Mount Clair (M Larsen, 3-1 jt-fav; Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Yougo (11-2); 3, Swordking (16-1). Badawi 3-1 jt-fav. 9 ran. NR: Alcian Blue. 2½l, 5l. C Brittain. Tote: £4.20; £1.90, £2.20, £3.00. DF: £7.90. Trio: £63.20. CSF: £18.48. Tricast: £202.87.

4.05 (1m 4f) 1, Greenwich Again (J Fortune, 13-2); 2, Pharly Dancer (5-6 fav); 3, Ballyrag (25-1). 8 ran. 3l, 6l. T Mills. Tote: £7.00; £2.90, £1.20, £2.30. DF: £6.70. CSF: £11.69.

4.35 (1m) 1, Tabika (G Milligan, 9-4 fav); 2, Kingchip Boy (4-1); 3, Mislemani (12-1). 6 ran. 7l, 2l. G Wragg. Tote: £2.90; £2.30, £2.60. DF: £4.80. CSF: £10.38.

Placepot: £9.20. Quadpot: £4.60.

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Saturday portrait: Stan Collymore, by Oliver Holt

Free spirit discovers perfect platform for self-expression

Fame and wealth throw a gentle embrace around some footballers. Gary Lineker fell in with them effortlessly, danced with them and never forgot to give them a polite goodnight kiss. Because he was so sweet, they loved him back and it turned into a beautiful friendship. Somehow, though, the magic is missing from their relationship with Stan Collymore.

The man who cost more than Dennis Bergkamp, more than Faustino Asprilla, more than Andy Cole and Les Ferdinand, too, has had a stormy affair with the trappings of his success since Liverpool signed him from Nottingham Forest before the start of this season for £8.5 million. At times, the promised land has appeared like a mirage in the desert to him.

Then Collymore is nothing like Lineker. His is a restless soul, brimming with insecurities, needing to be reassured. His personality is a feast of contradictions — a man who is labelled greedy for trying to eke an extra £425,000 out of Forest after his departure, but who readily admits that all the money that he has earned has not made him any happier than when he was 15.

Some still say that he is arrogant and difficult. Barry Fry, his manager at Southend United, tells a different story. "You never hear about him coming back to play in a match for Southend's groundsman who had been there 40 years and signing autographs for 90 minutes afterwards," Fry said. "He never gave me a moment of trouble. I don't know any player who deserves success more than him. He was a hero for me in every sense."

Collymore has probably been ill-served by the fact that he is one of those rarities in the national game — a deep thinker, an intelligent player. He is not afraid to talk about his socialist views, about the need to look after a wider community beyond each person's immediate family. "My generation has been brought up to say 'I'm all right, Jack'," he said, "and that's wrong." He is not someone who just goes with the flow.

He is not a simple goalmouth striker like Lineker, either. He wants to score spectacular goals, not just poacher's goals, and he will not be content with a goal in a game if he has not played well.

After a traumatic spell at the start of the season, when Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, dropped him and stuck with the partnership of Robbie Fowler and Ian Rush in attack, Collymore has risen to the challenge. He capitalised on an injury to the Rush and, in addition to scoring freely himself, has provided a stream of chances for the prolific Fowler.

He has adapted to Liverpool's patient build-ups, the time-honoured way of playing the ball to feet, passing and moving, not just running on to balls hit over the top for him, as they were at Forest. "I was not seeing as much of the ball as I used to at Forest," he said, "so I thought I had better go looking for it. Now, I make space for myself deeper and wider while Robbie pushes on. Before, we were getting in each other's way a bit. We were both trying to be out-and-out goalscorers."

> 'All I ever wanted to know from Liverpool was that they wanted me to play a part'

Before it all started going right, Collymore took the brunt of the criticism from Liverpool fans used to hurling only superlatives at their centre forwards. Now, though, it is his name that they call out first before home games.

He won one England cap, against Japan at Wembley in June last year, and his recent form earned him a call-up to one of Terry Venables's training sessions. He has been so impressive that he is neck-and-neck with Teddy Sheringham, Ferdinand and Fowler for the place alongside Shearer in the England team that will contest the European championship finals this summer.

The key to understanding Great Britain's costliest footballer, though, lies, as it does with most of us, in his roots. He was brought up by Doreen, his mother, on whom he dotes, after his father left them when he was young. She worked 14 hours a day as a cleaner at the local swimming baths to provide for him. When he was at Forest and now, at Liverpool, he refused to move away from his home town of Cannock, a mining community in Staffordshire, where his friends and family are.

"Perhaps it rubbed a few people up the wrong way at Forest when I decided to stay in Cannock, but I had a very strong base there and I did not want to lose it," he said. "The whole 'loner' thing started then. I suppose if not going out to clubs is being a loner, then I am one, but if people think I sit at home reading a book all the time, they are wide of the mark."

Away from the security of home, Collymore is anything but the epitome of self-confidence that he can sometimes appear to be. He speaks with a soft Midlands accent, politely and earnestly, keen to get his point across. There is nothing arrogant about him, no hint of trying to shy away from the rest of the team.

"I have never been more settled than I am now," he said. "There is no one here that I don't get on with and I'm good mates with Jamie Redknapp, David James and Phil Babb. I'm very happy."

It has not always been like that in his short career. He has had a problem settling at a string of clubs from Walsall and Wolverhampton Wanderers, through to Stafford Rangers and Crystal Palace. Only at Southend, where Fry made him feel like he was the best thing that had ever happened to the club, did he really feel wanted.

At Palace, he was kept out of the first team by Ian Wright and Mark Bright and the dressing-room wags went to work. "There were some very quick London boys in the dressing-room," Alan Smith, the Wycombe Wanderers manager, who was the reserve team boss at Palace when Collymore was there, said. "There was a lot of mickey-taking and I don't think Stan could handle it. He was a gentle giant, not an aggressive personality at all.

"They took the mickey out of him and his Midlands accent. If he tried to be one of the boys, it only made it worse. I think on one trip he said he was a ladies' man. It was the sort of thing any young fella might say if he was trying to impress, but that was it — he got slaughtered."

At Forest, he was supposed to have had a training-ground bust-up with a team-mate and once, when he scored a goal, the other Forest players scorned the usual hugs and congratulations and let him celebrate by himself. The "awkward" tag began to get him down. "It was always 'You've got great talent, but . . .' and that 'but' hangs on you like a ton weight after a while," he said.

When things hit the skids at Liverpool last year, it seemed that it was all going the same way again. He gave an interview to *Four-Four-Two* magazine that was widely publicised, even though he claims that he spoke off the record. In it, he told the reporter that he was dismayed at the way he was being treated by his new team.

"My ideas on big clubs have changed," he said. "You think you are going to something far superior in every way. So many clubs — I've got to be careful here — are a shambles. You go there thinking they will be centres of excellence and they are far from it. I do not know of any other industry that would lay out £8.5 million and then not have some plan of how they are going to use it."

Even Evans was forced to admit that the last part, in particular, was a point well made and the rift was smoothed over. Yesterday, as Collymore prepared for the FA Cup clash with Shrewsbury Town tomorrow, he was the picture of contentment. "All I ever wanted to know from Liverpool was that they wanted me to play a part," he said. "I would much rather be on half of what I could earn and know that I am in a team where I am wanted."

Well, Liverpool have made their intentions clear now, and Stan the Man, Britain's most expensive footballer, is starting to earn his £12,000 a week.

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE FA CUP THIS WEEKEND

5TH ROUND

HUDDERSFIELD v WIMBLEDON

Few will forget the headed goal from Lawrie Sanchez that gave Wimbledon a shock-horror 1-0 victory over Liverpool in the 1988 final. Though the Crazy Gang has just about disbanded, Wimbledon can still sense Wembley again, with victory at the splendid McAlpine Stadium leaving them only two games away. Huddersfield, third in the Endsleigh league first division, make their first fifth-round appearance since 1972, but have progressed eight times from 12 attempts at this stage. Best bet is a replay at McSelhurst Park.

LAST MEETING: No fixture.
RECORD: No previous meetings in competition.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (from): S Francis, S Jenkins, T Cowan, K Gray, L Sinnott, P Reed, D Bullock, L Makel, P Dalton, A Booth, R Jepson, R Rowe, S Collins, J Dyson.

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, E Ekoku, D Holdsworth, M Gayle, A Reeves, M Harford, C Perry, J Euell, A Clarke, A Pearce, S Castledine.

IPSWICH v ASTON VILLA

Ipswich's Cup run has embraced a marvellous replay win away to Blackburn Rovers and a mediocre victory, also 1-0, at home against Walsall. Thus, they could prove good, bad or indifferent this afternoon. Most vital factor will be the Portman Road pitch, which has degenerated into little more than a lumpy morass of mud, sand and divots. It is unlikely to suit Villa's cultured approach, although if anybody can pick their way through the assorted debris, it is Brian Little's increasingly smooth operators.

LAST MEETING: Ipswich Town 1 Aston Villa 0 (3rd rnd, 1980-81).
RECORD: 1-1, 1-2 (1938-39); 3-1 (1974-75); 1-0 (1980-81).

IPSWICH (from): R Wright, M Stockwell, G Uhlenbeek, M Tanner, A Vaughan, A Mowbray, C Thomsen, S Sedgley, J Wark, G Williams, P Mason, S Milton, I Marshall, J Scowcroft, S Slater, N Gregory, A Tanner.

ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, G Charles, A Wright, S Staunton, P McGrath, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, M Draper, A Townsend, I Taylor, T Johnson, S Milosevic, D Yorke, G Farrelly, M Oakes, F Carr.

SWINDON v SOUTHAMPTON

Pity that Steve McMahon, the Swindon player-manager, is likely to be missing, with a hamstring strain. The sight of him charging into tackles, and missing both body and ball, like he did on several occasions against Oldham on Monday, would have been an entertaining prospect. Once he had calmed down, though, he played an influential role. Swindon will indeed miss him. Paul Allen plays against the club that gave him a free transfer in November and, apparently, still bears a grudge or two. Watch him go.

LAST MEETING: Swindon Town 0 Southampton 3 (5th rnd, 1947-48).
RECORD: 0-3 (1947-48).

How they line up

SWINDON TOWN (from): F Digby, I Culverhouse, P Bodin, S Taylor, M Robinson, P Allen, K Horlock, T Gooden, M Ling, P Thorne, W Allison, W O'Sullivan, S Finney, F Talia, A Smith.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, F Benali, R Hall, K Monkou, J Magilton, M Le Tissier, B Venison, N Shipperley, G Watson, M Walters, N Maddison, M Oakley, B Grobbelaar.

TOMORROW: 4TH ROUND

SHREWSBURY v LIVERPOOL

If Shrewsbury beat Liverpool, Hell will freeze over and for ever more be used as an ice rink. Eighth in the Endsleigh second division against third in the Premiership represents a gross mismatch. The spectacle of John Barnes tripping the light fantastic at Gay Meadow makes the mind boggle. Shrewsbury really do not have a Sunday morning prayer. The 11am kick-off could perhaps make a difference, but only in so far as there will be no *Saturday Night Fever* for either set of lads.

LAST MEETING: No fixture.
RECORD: No previous meetings in competition.

How they line up

SHREWSBURY TOWN (from): P Edwards, T Clarke, K Seabury, C Withe, T Lynch, D Walton, P Whiston, M Taylor, P Evans, I Reed, A Berkley, R Woods, M Dempsey, I Stevens, S Anthrobus.

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, J McAteer, R Jones, J Scales, M Wright, P Babb, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas, R Fowler, S Collymore, A Warner, M Kennedy, I Rush, S Harkness.

TOMORROW: 5TH ROUND

MANCHESTER UNITED v MANCHESTER CITY

Manchester will be all a tremble tomorrow, when the latest episode of United-City warfare breaks out. Past Cup meetings have been shared, with two wins apiece, but United have lost only one game in 15 against the old foe since Alex Ferguson became manager in November 1986. At least Garry Flitcroft will not be displaying his combative skills in the light blue, a two-match suspension for ten bookings this season having banished him to the sidelines. Probably the safest place to be.

LAST MEETING: Manchester United 1 Man City 0 (3rd rnd, 1986-87).
RECORD: 0-3 (1925-26); 0-2 (1954-55); 3-0 (1969-70); 1-0 (1986-87).

MAN UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, D Irwin, S Bruce, D May, G Pallister, P Neville, R Giggs, R Keane, N Butt, L Sharpe, E Cantona, A Cole, D Beckham, P Scholes, B McClair, P Parker, A Coton.

MAN CITY (from): E Immel, N Summerbee, I Brightwell, K Curle, K Symons, M Frontzeck, M Brown, G Kinkladze, S Lomas, N Clough, U Rösler, N Quinn, G Creaney, C Beech, A Rowlands, M Margetson.

MONDAY: 5TH ROUND

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v TOTTENHAM

What is this feast I hold before my eyes? Should be a cracker, even though the Forest fire has been barely flickering of late. Mind you, Tottenham's form has been a bit dodgy, too, with three defeats in their last six Premiership outings. The last time the sides met in the competition was in the 1991 final, when poor old Brian Clough saw his one remaining dream, to win the FA Cup, fade into oblivion. It all went sadly wrong when a bloke called Walker, or something like that, scored an own goal in extra time.

LAST MEETING: Tottenham 2 Nottingham Forest 1 (final, 1990-91).
RECORD: 1-2 (1970-71); 1-1, 1-0 (1974-75); 1-2 (1990-91).

How they line up

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, A Fettis, D Lyttle, D Phillips, C Cooper, S Chettle, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, I Woan, A Silenzi, B Roy, K Campbell, S Stone, P McGregor, J Lee, K Black, R Rosario.

TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, D Austin, J Edinburgh, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson, S Campbell, D Caskey, R Fox, A Sinton, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, S Nethercott, J Dozzell, R Rosenthal, C Day.

AND THE PREMIERSHIP

CHELSEA v WEST HAM

Wot no Ruud? Gullit damaged an ankle in training — woebetide the culprit — and is rated at no more than 50-50. Chelsea have proved before they can do without the masterful Dutchman and even he was powerless to prevent the 1-0 debacle at Coventry last week. West Ham welcome back the delicious Dani and not-so-beautiful Bilic, who were fortunate to miss the 3-0 FA Cup collapse in the glorious air of Cleethorpes on Wednesday. How could it have happened? Definitely something fishy about it.

LAST SEASON: Chelsea 1 West Ham United 2.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: 0-4, 1-0, 1-1, —, —, —, 2-1, —, 2-0, 1-2.

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, T Phelan, D Petrescu, S Clarke, D Lee, M Duberry, F Sinclair, E Johnsen, J Morris, E Newton, R Gullit, D Wise, J Spencer, G Peacock, P Furlong, N Spackman, M Izzet.

WEST HAM (from): L Miklosko, S Potts, J Dicks, K Rowland, S Bilic, A Martin, M Rieper, K Brown, A Whitbread, J Harkes, D Gordon, I Bishop, M Hughes, D Williamson, I Dowie, A Cottee, Dani, P Shilton, L Sealey.

MIDDLESBROUGH v BOLTON

Compared with everything else of a footie nature this weekend, Bolton v Middlesbrough has about as much appeal as joining the Bosnian branch of the Ramblers' Association. Wanderers have as good as gone and Middlesbrough, now Juninho-less as well, are fading fast. Still, at least Bryan Robson goes for a slice of Boro history tomorrow. Lose this one and its eight successive league defeats — equalling the club record. Superb credentials for somebody being touted as the next England supremo.

LAST SEASON: Middlesbrough 1 Bolton Wanderers 0.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: —, 0-0, —, —, —, —, —, —, 0-1, 1-0.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Cox, N Pearson, S Vickers, P Whelan, C Morris, D Whyte, J Pollock, G Kavanagh, K O'Halloran, C Hignett, J A Fjortoft, J Hendrie, A Moore, N Barmby, P Wilkinson.

BOLTON (from): K Branagan, S Green, J Phillips, S Curcic, G Taggart, C Fairclough, D Lee, A Stubbs, N Blake, F de Freitas, A Thompson, J McGinlay, M Paatelainen, S Sellars, A Davison, S McAnespie.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	25	60	+29	WWWWW
2 Manchester Utd	26	51	+18	LDWWW
3 Liverpool	26	49	+28	DWWDW
4 Aston Villa	25	45	+16	DWLWW
5 Tottenham	26	42	+8	WWLDL
6 Blackburn	26	41	+12	DWWWL
7 Arsenal	26	41	+9	LWLDW
8 Everton	26	40	+11	WDWDW
9 Nottm Forest	26	40	0	WLWLL
10 Chelsea	26	39	+4	WDWWL
11 Leeds	25	35	-6	DWLLL
12 Middlesbrough	26	33	-8	LLLLL
13 West Ham	25	32	-8	LLWWW
14 Sheffield Wed	25	29	-4	WDLLW
15 Southampton	25	25	-11	DLWDD
16 Wimbledon	26	24	-16	LLWLL
17 Coventry	26	24	-16	LDLDW
18 Manchester City	26	24	-20	LDDWL
19 QPR	26	18	-21	LLLLL
20 Bolton	26	13	-27	LWLLL

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v QPR

Bit like the boy Nero, Ray Wilkins keeps his cool as all around him crumbles. He must watch his verbals, though, after a recent inclusion in *Colemanballs*. "Unfortunately, we keep kicking ourselves in the foot," he mused. Dichio, the Italian stallion, has been temporarily retired to stud because of suspension, so Hateley, the English carthorse, returns up front after a short stint in the reserves. Wilkins has quietly led Rangers to seven successive Premiership defeats, so perhaps it is time he tried another method and got seriously angry.

LAST SEASON: Sheffield Wednesday 0 Queens Park Rangers 2.
TEN-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 7-1, 3-1, 0-2, 2-0, —, 4-1, 1-0, 3-1, 0-2.

How they line up

SHEFFIELD WEDS (from): K Pressman, I Nolan, D Stefanovic, P Atherton, D Walker, S Nicol, C Waddle, M Degryse, G Hyde, G Whittingham, D Kovacevic, M Bright, J Watts, M Platts, C Woods, D Hirst.

QPR (from): J Sommer, A Roberts, D Bardsley, R Brevett, D Maddix, S Yates, M Brazier, T Challis, C Plummer, I Holloway, R Wilkins, S Barker, B Allen, N Quashie, T Sinclair, K Gallen, M Hateley, A Impey.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

12 noon Sky Sports FA Cup 5th round special

3.50pm BBC 1: Match of the Day
Manchester United v Manchester City (live)
Shrewsbury v Liverpool (highlights)

Monday

7.00pm Sky Sports FA Cup 5th round special
Nottingham Forest v Tottenham (live)

Simple man who was simply the best

Paisley's greatest asset was gift of the common touch

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

The scene would have appealed to Bob Paisley's wry humour. Most of English and Welsh football will fall silent to him this afternoon, but at Gay Meadow, a ground where the tribute should be particularly keen, the kick-off is not until 11am tomorrow, and the majority of the 8,000 people present will hope to see his beloved Liverpool humbled by Shrewsbury Town in the FA Cup.

Sunday, to Paisley, was indeed the silent day, the lost day in the old football week.

This Weekend View is largely given to his words because Paisley knew the game better than any of us and could impart more knowledge in a half-finished sentence than many a modern media manager in a lifetime. It was a February afternoon at Anfield in 1982, when Paisley, then 63, shared several hours in the boardroom with me in the company of Sir John Smith, the late chairman, and Peter Robinson, the surviving secretary.

Paisley was already Great Britain's most successful manager, but a prescient critic of the FA coaching doctrine and, like Bill Shankly before him and Roy Evans after him, a man who had spent a minimum of 25 years in apprenticeship to become team manager.

"Sharing," he said, "sums up Liverpool better than anything else. I don't think I could have survived at any other club, because here I can go from the top to the bottom, talk to people.

"This is probably why I've been able to accept the burden that's apparently on me. I've been able to get knowledge and comfort, so it's not been as lonely as it is at any other club."

The ego that drives so much of football was another target of Paisley. "There's so many clubs been ruined by people's ego," he said. "The day after we won our first European Cup, we were back at this club at 9.15 in the morning, talking about how we would do it again, working from that moment because nobody has the right to win anything they haven't earned.

"I talked to the chairman and Peter [Robinson] about a player we wanted. He asked for a wage that would have broken our pay structure. The chairman and Peter said it would overload us, so I went along with that idea. If I didn't, if I tried to insist on improving the team, I would be putting my ego above everything else. That's another thing at Liverpool, we accept it as it is."

Paisley believed that he was a more competitive man than Shankly. He knew that he could not command words or an audience the way Shankly did, yet he had been widely quoted as disparaging Arsenal's style. "There's method in my madness," he said. "When we met last, it was like two boxers who were not compatible. So I'm having a little go at them, because I'm looking forward as far as April, hoping they'll be so narked, they'll bypass midfield and open up the game a little bit."

'Sharing sums up Liverpool better than anything else. I don't think I could have survived at any other club, because here I can go from the top to the bottom, talk to people.'

Paisley was just as given to this simple psychology inside his own dressing room. "You've got to have knowledge of the fitness of people; you've got to know that, if you put youngsters in there, that they have the nature to withstand it," he said. "Otherwise, the senior players will treat them like lap dogs. Things are changing in the game. Before, we've had two substitutes lying spare . . . with the wages that are coming in, you are going to have smaller squads with only three or four men to cover 11 positions."

He had expected to be a stopgap manager, but those thinking that early retirement was on his agenda were misled.

"I'd be better off financially if I did pack it in," he said, "but I've more enthusiasm than ever. Maybe, with my dodgy ankle, I'm slower about the field, but I wouldn't want to retire, not unless the hooliganism got at my family, or my health.

"Football is just something to look forward to. You can't say it's utopia — there's always got to be some obstacle, somewhere — but a bit of competition in life keeps you going. You learn something every day; if I didn't feel this learning I wouldn't want to come in."

His speciality had been shrewdness in medical matters. He had been the trainer (the old sponge man) and had taken a course in physiotherapy and he seemed to spot a stress injury before the player even realised it was developing. "A manager's got to have something, it doesn't matter what," he said. "He's got to be able to hold the respect of players, and initially I was able to hit the area where they were weakest and gain respect that way.

"I find out more about a player when he's injured. However much you try to involve him, he seems an outcast. It's got to be that way, you've got to concentrate on the fit ones; but you see the reaction, the character, when a player is down. You can help him, but he reveals himself."

He knew the mind of the Kop, too. "The whole of my life, what they wanted was honesty," he said. "They were not so concerned with cultured football, but with triers who give 100 per cent."

Paisley owned up to insubordination when he was at Shankly's side. Paisley wanted to substitute Tony Hateley, who kept losing the ball instead of "holding it up". Shankly would not listen, but, when Hateley was slightly concussed, Paisley, the medical man, promptly called for a stretcher, bound the bemused player's legs together and signalled a substitution.

"How is Hateley?" Shankly asked eventually. "He's fine — I was just making sure now we've got him off, you'll not get him back on again!" Paisley retorted. The boardroom rocked with laughter at the man's canny ways.

BARRY GREENWOOD

Horton presents a more relaxed figure as Huddersfield's manager than he did in his troubled spell at Maine Road

Horton stages his comeback

David Maddock

talks to a manager putting a traumatic spell behind him

FA CUP

BRIAN HORTON could be a bitter man. Given his treatment by some of the directors of Manchester City, his previous club, he might have every reason to be. It says much about the man that he is not.

Horton is the manager of Huddersfield Town. He took over the position at the McAlpine Stadium after being dismissed by Manchester City last summer and has presided over Huddersfield's most successful run for 25 years — yet, even as he discussed Huddersfield's FA Cup fifth-round tie with Wimbledon, of the FA Carling Premiership, this week, the shadow of City looms large.

He is relaxed, far more so than in those days at Maine Road, where politics overshadowed what was an unspectacular but effective managerial reign. Somehow, he survived for two seasons after Francis Lee took control of the club, but, when the end came, it was as grisly as the tenure. Horton learnt of his dismissal in the newspapers, at breakfast when he was attending a managers' meeting on behalf of the club. In the face of such unseemly practice, he maintained, to his eternal credit, a straight-backed dignity.

Even after all that, all the political backbiting, whispering and carefully-placed stories in the media suggesting that he was about to be dismissed, he refuses to bear grudges. "I'm an optimist, very much so," he said. "It was a very difficult political situation at City, but I never got down there, I never let it bother me. People have asked 'Wasn't I knocked down after my experience at City?', but, with the majority of the players and, I would say, all of the supporters, there wasn't a problem.

"I didn't walk out of there being a failure, or being shot at by the crowd, so that didn't knock me down. I didn't walk out deflated, feeling I was a failure. I walked out with my head held high and thought I had done a good job."

In his playing days, Horton was driven, a roaring furnace of spirit making up for any technical limitations. He helped first Brighton and then Luton Town to promotion into the first division after emerging from the obscurity of non-league football. As a manager, that spirit remains and he has performed impressively on limited resources, not least at City.

Horton's latest achievement is possibly the most impressive of all. Huddersfield had just been promoted to the first division when Neil Warnock, the popular manager, left after a disagreement. Horton looked for all the world like the patsy who was being set up to take the rap. Instead, Huddersfield are in the top three in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division and have reached the last 16 of the FA Cup for the first time in 24 years. He is thinking of promotion, despite all the problems that would bring. "People are saying to me: 'You must enjoy being out of the limelight after the time you had at City'," he said. "No, I'm not. This week has been great for Huddersfield because of the interest. Sky TV, *Match of the Day*, national press — I've told my players that's what the game is all about.

"If we get the chance to go up, then I want it desperately; I want to go back there. People have said: 'You won't want to go in there because you won't win as many games, they might want to get rid of you because it's a higher standard.' So what. You've got to have a go."

It would be sweet irony if Huddersfield, thriving on their manager's commitment to creative, attacking football, progress to the quarter-finals while Manchester City flounder in their rather tricky task at Old Trafford tomorrow. There is still the prospect, too, of Horton's new club replacing his old one in the Premiership. That, he said laconically, is an irrelevant prospect, one that bothers him not one bit — but it was said with the merest hint of a smile and for that he can be forgiven.

IN BRIEF

Victorious Rusedski primed for Sampras

GREG RUSEDSKI, of Great Britain, will meet Pete Sampras, of the United States, in the quarter-finals of the Sybase Open men's indoor tournament after bouncing back from the loss of the opening set to beat Lionel Roux, of France, 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 yesterday.

Sampras, trying to regain his world No 1 ranking from Thomas Muster, saw off Nuno Marques, of Portugal, 6-1, 6-3 at the event in San Jose. Andre Agassi and Michael Chang also went through.

Rusedski, the No 7 seed, enjoyed less success in the doubles. He and Vince Spadea, of the United States, lost their quarter-final 6-2, 6-4 to Ken Flach and Kelly Jones.

Feherty dream

Golf: David Feherty, of Ireland, overcame a painful elbow to record a 65, seven under par, his best round for two years, and finish one shot off Ernie Els, the leader, in the South African PGA championship in Johannesburg, yesterday. Feherty birdied five of his opening six holes. "I thought I was still asleep and dreaming," he said.

Williams on cue

Snooker: Mark Williams, of Wales, moved into the last 32 of the Sweater Shop International Open with a 5-2 victory over Dene O'Kane, of New Zealand, in Swindon yesterday. Williams, who has climbed from No 39 to provisional No 12 in world rankings, will face Graeme Dott or John Higgins.

Hounslow hope

Hockey: Hounslow, eleventh in the National League, will be searching for vital points when they meet Southgate, the leaders, at Chiswick tomorrow. Next season, the top 12 will form a new first division. Havant expect to capitalise in their home match today against St Albans.

Homely Halifax

Rugby league: Halifax, the last club to win the Silk Cup Challenge Cup before Wigan began their eight-year monopoly, should account for Sheffield in the delayed fifth-round tie tomorrow and set up a home fixture against Leeds in the quarter-finals.

Belles of the ball

Football: Six of the England women's squad who beat Portugal last Sunday — four from Croydon and two Doncaster Belles — meet again tomorrow in the League Cup semi-final at Croydon.

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

MOSCOW: Indoor meeting: Men: 60m: O Ezinwa (Nigeria) 6 56sec. 200m: J Williams (US) 20.72. 400m: I Ismail (Qatar) 45.81. 1,500m: V Niyongabo (Burundi) 3min 35.19sec. 60m hurdles: A Johnson (US) 7.50sec. 5km walk: V Andreev (Russ) 19min 1.32sec. Pole vault: S Bubka (Ukr) 5 80m. Triple jump: Y Quesada (Cuba) 17.16. Women: 60m: I Privalova (Russ) 7.04sec. 200m: N Voronova (Russ) 23.34. 400m: D Georgieva (Bul) 51.57. 800m: I Turner (Jam) 2min 6.63sec. 60m hurdles: N Bodrova (Ukr) 8 14sec. High jump: T Motkova (Russ) 1.97m. Long jump: L Ninova (Austria) 6 61. Triple jump: I Lasovskaya (Russ) 14.55. Shot: V Fedushina (Ukr) 19 27

BOWLS

PRESTON: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships: Singles: First round: A Thomson (Eng) bt K Kerkow (Aus) 7-5, 7-6, 7-5; J Price (Wales) bt M Johnston (Ire) 7-1, 7-2, 7-2.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Perth: Queensland 154 and 237 (M Love 89; J Angel 5-45); West Australia 207 (T Moody 59) and 185-3 (M Lavender 77). West Australia won by 7 wkts. Melbourne: S Australia 309 (T Nielsen 115, P Nobes 86) and 229; Victoria 519-7 dec (M Elliot 200, I Harvey 136) and 20-0. Victoria won by 10 wkts.

FOOTBALL

SCHOOLS MATCHES. FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Shropshire 1 Lincolnshire 3. Snickers under-19 Trophy: Hills Road Coll, Cambs 4 Suffolk Coll 1

GOLF

HONOLULU: Hawaiian Open: First round (United States unless stated): 67: W Levi. 68: S Simpson, J Furyk. 69: S Stricker, T Tryba, J D Blake, B Fabel. 70: G Ruenak, K Clearwater, D Pohl, B Claar, G Hallberg, S Medlin. 71: P Blackmar, L Nelson, D Barr (Can), S Lowery, D Pride, L Clements, R Freeman, P Azinger, L Mize, N Henke, J Hart. Leading Briton: 80: B Lane.

MELBOURNE: Australian Masters: Leaders after two rounds (Australia unless stated): 137: B Hughes 69, 68; C Parry 71, 66. 139: R Gibson (Can) 70, 69; A Stolz 72, 67; G Chalmers 68, 71, P Lonard 70, 69. 140: J O'Keefe (US) 72, 68; D Fardon 69, 71; R Green 67, 73; R Allenby 68, 72. Selected scores: 145: J Daly (US) 77, 68. 147: T Watson (US) 77, 70. 150: B Jackson (GB) 76, 74

JOHANNESBURG: South African PGA Championship: First round (SA unless stated): 64: E Els. 65: D Feherty (N Ire), M Scholz. 66: S Struver (Ger), W Druian, B Pappas, D Howell (Eng). 67: R Freeman (US), B Vaughan (US). 68: R Kaplan, C Rocca (It). 69: I Pyman (Eng), P Hedblom (Swe), S Richardson (Eng), W Schutte

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 4 Washington 3; New York Rangers 2 Montreal 2. Calgary 6 New York Islanders 3. Chicago 3 Boston 0. San Jose 2 Ottawa 2. Tampa Bay 4 Colorado 2. Vancouver 6 Anaheim 3.

RUGBY UNION

A international

Wales	22	Scotland	32

(at Swansea)

Wales A: Tries: Evans, McBryde, Taylor. Cons: Davies 2. Pen: Davies. Scotland A: Tries: Broughton, Stark 2. Con: Welsh. Pens: Welsh 5.

Under-21 international

Wales	25	Scotland	21

(at Swansea)

Wales: Tries: Funnell, G Jones, Hawkins. Cons: Connor 2. Pens: Connor 2. Scotland: Tries: A Bulloch, Goldie. Con: C Richards. Pens: C Richards, Dalgleish. Dropped goal: Dalgleish.

SKIING

SIERRA NEVADA, Spain: Women's combined: Downhill: 1, P Street (US) 1min 41.95secs. 2, I Kostner (It) 1:42.15. 3, K Seizinger (Ger) 1:42 16. 4, M Gerety (US) 1:42.23. 5, H Zeller-Baehler (Swi) 1:42.37. 6, R Goetschl (Austria) 1:42.46

SNOOKER

SWINDON: Sweater Shop International Open: First round: A Drago (Malta) bt T Murphy (N Ire) 5-2; J Swail (N Ire) bt B Pinches (Eng) 5-2; D Harold (Eng) bt M Davis (Eng) 5-2; M Williams (Wales) bt D O'Kane (NZ) 5-2; A Hamilton (Eng) bt M Bennett (Wales) 5-2.

SQUASH

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Duffield 2, Potters Bar 3; Nottingham 5, Pontefract 0; Swansea 1, Chichester 4; Barnham Broom 3, Lexden 2.

TENNIS

SAN JOSE, California: Men's tournament: Second round (US unless stated): V Spadea bt D Rostagno 6-4, 7-6; G Rusedski (GB) bt L Roux (Fr) 6-7, 6-2, 6-2; R Reneberg bt J Gimelstob 6-7, 6-4; J Stoltenberg (Aus) walkover M Philippoussis (Aus); M Chang bt M Ondruska (SA) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; P Sampras bt N Marques (Por) 6-1, 6-3; A Agassi bt J Stark 6-4, 6-4.

PARIS: Women's open tournament: Quarter-finals: M Maleeva (Bul) bt M Oremans (Holl) 6-3, 6-4; S Farina (It) bt P Begerow (Ger) 6-3, 6-1.

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 1996

Victory over Wales promises to bring unlikely grand slam a step nearer

Scotland looking back to the future

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

NOT the least of Scotland's achievements this season has been to leap from being a lost cause in rugby union's five-nations' championship to potential grand slam champions. To span such a chasm in four weeks suggests that the truth always lay somewhere in between.

However, the coveted grand slam will appear close to reality if the rejuvenated Scots overcome Wales at National Stadium in Cardiff this afternoon. Regardless of Scotland's meagre record in Cardiff — only four victories since the Second World War — Scots may prefer to remember that two of those wins, in 1984 and 1990, preceded grand slams.

It is enough to send Jim Telfer, the national coaching director, scowling into the tea leaves. "I can't see why Scotland should be favourites," he grumbled at Beachley yesterday as his players trained at the Royal Welch Fusiliers ground under the shadow of the Severn Bridge. Not that Telfer, who has a gleam in his eye more frequently these days, ever set much store by the public perception of his team.

Yet wins over Ireland and France have made Scotland the only unbeaten team in the championship, playing, moreover, in the style that England have talked about but singularly failed to match. Nor have France and Ireland, who meet in Paris today, discovered such rapturous freedom of expression that Wales seek to emulate.

If you accept all the predictions, the match in Cardiff today will be redolent with flowing, expansive rugby. Easy to talk about, not always so easy to achieve, but both sides have shown that they can do so. Not so much for entertainment's sake either, but because that is the style most suited to the forces at their disposal.

"Spectators have to be satisfied with good performances," Telfer said. "Entertainment is part and parcel of how you want to play the game. We have always tried to play constructive rugby with limited resources and sometimes with meagre ball."

Telfer genuinely respects the Welsh system that produces such competitive players from school and youth rugby. Against that, he set the commitment and dedication that Scotland's national teams seem to have bottled as a speciality. "We have always had players who miss out on the accolades, players like Alastair Campbell or Chris Gray, for example, and now Stuart Campbell," Telfer said.

"These are players who have taken it upon themselves to make their mark in rugby, but I am surprised how quickly this group has gelled together with no apparent concern. At the moment, we have 15 blokes who are not world-class but are working very hard to prove the doubters wrong."

Some of the cement in Scotland's game will be provided by Scott Hastings, who wins his sixtieth cap and stands one behind Gavin, his brother, in Scotland's all-time list. Scott is 31, but, according to Telfer, persists in behaving as though he were 21 with his whole career stretching before him. "To remain an international for ten years is a remarkable achievement," Telfer said.

"You have to be lucky with injuries and remarkably resilient, but, apart from his skills and commitment, which have always made him a key member of the team, Scott remains a wonderful enthusiast, a very positive influence on the rest of the squad."

Wales's young and inexperienced unit, having carried the game so successfully to England that they lost by only six points, will look for more of the same in front of a supportive crowd — though that has not stopped them attending to some basics.

They have worked hard on their scrummaging, doubtless in the hope that the Scotland back row can be tied down, and also on their rucking. No side in the northern hemisphere produces quicker ball than Scotland, yet that is exactly what Wales require so that they can release their young backs.

"We made mistakes against England which cost us two tries," Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales hooker and captain, said, "but you learn a lot from each game, about yourself and how the game can be played, and we know that the style we are after does work. Some people have questioned whether it can work at the top level — well, New Zealand and Scotland have proved it."

Nevertheless, the stakes have changed in a subtle way since the last round of the championship, two weeks ago. Every game that Scotland win produces a greater degree of expectation and a more searching examination of individuals, such as Gregor Townsend, the adventurous stand-off half, or Rowen Shepherd, whose glorious running against France provoked a mass of laudatory adjectives.

Yet there is a buoyancy in Wales, an expectation that, if the season is to mean anything, it must start with a home victory. The series with Scotland — this is the hundredth meeting of the countries and Wales lead 54-43 — has no burden attached, unlike recent games with Ireland, who have relished visits to Cardiff.

The only tradition fixed to this game is one of running rugby, which may not be easy to sustain if the weather lives up to forecasts of wind and rain. Yet the Scots shrugged off such handicaps in Dublin, took a positive attitude and won. What they have done once, they can do again.

Five Nations' Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	0	35	24	4
England	2	1	0	1	33	30	2
France	2	1	0	1	29	31	2
Ireland	1	0	0	1	10	16	0
Wales	1	0	0	1	15	21	0

RESULTS: France 15 England 12, Ireland 10 Scotland 16; England 21 Wales 15; Scotland 19 France 14.

FIXTURES: Today: France v Ireland, Wales v Scotland. Mar 2: Ireland v Wales; Scotland v England. Mar 16: England v Ireland; Wales v France

Arwel Thomas, of Wales, is the centre of attention in training for the game with Scotland today. Photograph: Huw Evans

WALES		SCOTLAND
W J L Thomas (Llanelli)	15	R J S Shepherd (Melrose)
I C Evans (Llanelli)	14	C A Joiner (Melrose)
L B Davies (Neath)	13	S Hastings (Watsonians)
N G Davies (Llanelli)	12	I C Jardine (Stirling County)
W T Proctor (Llanelli)	11	M Dods (Northampton)
A C Thomas (Bristol)	10	G P J Townsend (Northampton)
R Howley (Bridgend)	9	B W Redpath (Melrose)
A L P Lewis (Cardiff)	1	D I W Hilton (Bath)
*J M Humphreys (Cardiff)	2	K D McKenzie (Stirling County)
J D Davies (Neath)	3	P H Wright (Boroughmuir)
E W Lewis (Cardiff)	6	*R I Wainwright (Watsonians)
G O Llewellyn (Neath)	4	S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP)
D Jones (Cardiff)	5	G W Weir (Newcastle)
R G Jones (Llanelli)	7	I R Smith (Gloucester)
H T Taylor (Cardiff)	8	E W Peters (Bath)

Referee: J Dumé (France) TV: BBC1 Kick-off: 3.0 * denotes captain

REPLACEMENTS: 16 G Thomas (Bridgend), 17 N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), 18 A P Moore (Cardiff), 19 S Williams (Neath), 20 L Mustoe (Cardiff), 21 G R Jenkins (Swansea).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 K M Logan (Stirling County), 17 C M Chalmers (Melrose), 18 G Armstrong (Newcastle), 19 S Murray (Edinburgh Academicals), 20 A P Burnell (London Scottish), 21 J A Hay (Hawick).

Redknapp's hamstring causes concern for Liverpool

By Peter Ball

JAMIE REDKNAPP, the Liverpool and England midfield player, has suffered another setback on his return from a hamstring injury. Redknapp will miss the delayed FA Cup fourth-round tie away to Shrewsbury Town tomorrow after limping out of a reserve game against Stoke City on Thursday.

Yesterday, he was sent to hospital to undergo a scan, raising fears that he may be facing a further lay-off. Redknapp had made one appearance for the first team on his return to fitness from the injury — which had kept him out of action for nearly three months — playing the last 15 minutes as substitute at Queens Park Rangers on Sunday. With the European championship finals approaching, any long absence for Redknapp would be a blow to England as well as to his club.

The delay in the tie, which has been postponed twice because of bad weather, has at least been good news for Paul Evans, Shrewsbury's Wales Under-21 midfield player. Sent off against Fulham in the third round, Evans received a four-match suspension, but the postponements mean that he is now available to play against the club that he, like half the Shrewsbury team, supported.

Redknapp apart, Liverpool have no injury problems for the match. Neil Ruddock returns to the squad after suspension, but Roy Evans, the manager, is expected to retain the side that beat Queens Park Rangers.

"We've seen this week with West Ham and Everton what can happen, so we mustn't treat Shrewsbury lightly," Evans said. "We're as vulnerable as anyone."

Perhaps not as vulnerable as Manchester City, who go to Old Trafford tomorrow without Garry Flitcroft, who is suspended, and with doubts about Ian Brightwell and Keith Curle, their captain, for a game in which they desperately need to be at full strength. "If they are both OK, I will be quietly confident of getting something," Alan Ball, the City manager, said.

Alex Ferguson's first match as Manchester United's manager was against City. United won then 1-0, although, should that be the score tomorrow, there may be more discontent among the United followers than City's, such is the disparity between the clubs ten years on. United are without Gary Neville, who is suspended, but welcome back Steve Bruce, their captain, to virtually their strongest side.

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, has agreed to drug testing on players being extended after the positive tests on Roger Stanislaus and Craig Whitington this year. However, Taylor said that he will resist any attempt by the Sports Council to do tests at players' homes.

Mike Walker, the former Norwich City and Everton manager, has emerged as a candidate for the manager's job at Burnley. "When I was manager at Everton, I used to go to Burnley quite a lot to watch games and it is a tremendous set-up with a lot of potential," Walker said.

Doug Sharpe yesterday retook control of Swansea City, the troubled second division club, after it was confirmed that its sale to Michael Thompson, the businessman, had fallen through.

"The chairmanship of Swansea City AFC requires a six-day week commitment which meant my other business projects could not receive the attention they demand," Thompson said. "I have reluctantly decided not to proceed with the acquisition of the club." Sharpe's return could also mean a return to Vetch Field for Frank Burrows as manager after the short-lived reign of Kevin Cullis came to an end in midweek.

FA CUP

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Horton's Cup hopes 51

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Weary England have look of journeymen

From Alan Lee
in Peshawar

THIS World Cup is no place for faint hearts or reluctant travellers and, when England checked into their hotel in the frontier town of Peshawar last night, it was after a journey several hours longer than it takes to fly from London to Sydney. They have a day to recover before the first of two matches that they must win to remain in the competition.

The essential points ought to be gathered routinely. United Arab Emirates, England's opponents tomorrow, were resoundingly beaten by South Africa yesterday, while Holland, who meet New Zealand today and England on Thursday, have been struck down by stomach trouble.

England are not the only side to be suffering the chaotic consequences of some bizarre fixture planning, but this was a journey of grotesque invention. From Ahmedabad, scene of their opening defeat, they zig-zagged north to Delhi, southwest to Karachi and then north again to Peshawar. It entailed three flights, an overnight transit, countless airport queues and a door-to-door trip of 27 hours.

On the final leg, yesterday evening, there was an unshaven weariness to the team impossible to censure. Jack Russell sketched a drawing of a fellow passenger, Robin Smith scanned the business pages of a newspaper with entrepreneural interest and Peter Martin, an avid photographer, fretted about batteries for his camera. Others stared ahead, unable to comprehend that this marathon could be inflicted in what is allegedly cricket's global event.

Perhaps we should not be surprised. The organisation of this tournament has, after all, been anything but slick and it is daily being condemned by a bickering backcloth. Yesterday, it came in the shape of a dispute over sponsorship rights between Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola, renewed safety fears about the Calcutta ground that could affect the staging of the semi-final, and a protest from the Pakistani Government, claiming that the disputed territory of Kashmir was depicted as Indian at the opening ceremony. Amid such bedlam, the logistics of civilised travel for the competing teams seems to have been forgotten.

England, at least, can now settle in one base for a complete week and, within it, they should ensure their passage to the quarter-finals. The UAE, a sensitive amalgam of seven Emirates, certain of whom have been falling out spectacularly in their cricket administration, won the ICC Trophy last year without losing a game. That was a surprise. If they so much as trouble England tomorrow, it will rank as the greatest upset in World Cup history.

They are an appealing curiosity, however, not least in the style of Sultan Zarawani, their captain, whose leg spin is said to be less impressive than his Lamborghini. Yet despite rigorous preparation, that has taken them to one-day tournaments in Sharjah, India and Pakistan in recent months, they are genuine also-rans in an event with a sharp division between those who might win the trophy and those who cannot.

It could cynically be said that England have yet to prove to which camp they belong and their crop of minor injuries — of a type they were spared for most of the tour to South Africa — is worrying evidence of tired bodies. Michael Atherton, the captain, was yesterday grimacing with pain from his recurrent back condition, an addition to the concern already circulating over Hick, Robin Smith and Dominic Cork.

It is, however, Atherton's intention that Hick should play tomorrow and that England should field their best available team. In his mind, this may only involve substituting DeFreitas for Martin, but the option of including both specialist spin bowlers must be investigated.

Against New Zealand, it was the spin of Hick and Richard Illingworth that stalled the opposition sprint. The two slow bowlers took three for 66 in 19 overs, as against two for 157 in 31 overs of seam. On the slow pitches dominating this tournament, Neil Smith's addition to the spin attack should not be long delayed.

Lara sparkles, page 46
World Cup Extras, page 46

WORLD CUP DETAILS

GROUP A

RESULT: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wkts, Hyderabad.

	P	W	T	L	NR	Pts
West Indies	1	1	0	0	0	
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenya	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	1	0	0	1	0	0

FIXTURES: Today: Sri Lanka v Australia, Colombo*. Tomorrow: India v Kenya, Cuttack. Feb 21: India v West Indies, Gwalior. Feb 21: Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe, Colombo. Feb 23: Australia v Kenya, Visakhapatnam. Feb 25: Sri Lanka v West Indies, Colombo* Feb 26: Kenya v Zimbabwe, Patna. Feb 27: Australia v India, Bombay. Feb 29: Kenya v West Indies, Pune. Mar 1: Australia v Zimbabwe, Nagpur. Mar 2: India v Sri Lanka, Delhi. Mar 4: West Indies v Australia, Jaipur. Mar 6: India v Zimbabwe, Kanpur. Mar 6: Sri Lanka v Kenya, Kandy

* Australia and West Indies have said that they will forfeit these matches

GROUP B

RESULTS: New Zealand beat England by 11 runs, Ahmedabad: South Africa beat UAE by 169 runs, Rawalpindi

	P	W	T	L	NR	Pts
South Africa	1	1	0	0	0	2
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	0	2
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holland	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	1	0	0	1	0	0
UAE	1	0	0	1	0	0

FIXTURES: Today: Holland v New Zealand, Vadodara. Tomorrow: England v UAE, Peshawar. Feb 20: New Zealand v South Africa, Faisalabad. Feb 22: England v Holland, Peshawar. Feb 24: Pakistan v UAE, Lahore. Feb 25: England v South Africa, Rawalpindi. Feb 26: Pakistan v Holland, Lahore. Feb 27: New Zealand v UAE, Faisalabad. Feb 29: Pakistan v South Africa, Karachi. Mar 1: Holland v UAE, Lahore. Mar 3: Pakistan v England, Karachi. Mar 5: Holland v South Africa, Rawalpindi. Mar 6: Pakistan v New Zealand, Gujranwala.

Top four in each group qualify for quarter-finals. Two points for a win, one for a tie and no result

QUARTER-FINALS: Mar 9: A1 v B4, Faisalabad: A2 v B3, Bangalore. Mar 11: B1 v A4, Karachi: B2 v A3, Madras. SEMI-FINALS: Mar 13: Faisalabad winner v Bangalore winner, Calcutta. Mar 14: Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chandigarh. FINAL: Mar 17: Lahore.

Rising son

Jamie Redknapp on football, the fans and the glory

PLUS

Win five days at the Bobby Charlton Soccer School for you and a friend

in

1015

for young *Times* readers, inside the Magazine today

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TRAVEL

Burma: aboard the new boat from Mandalay

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£10,000 of British weekend breaks to be won

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A rose garden in Belgium fit for a prince

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Pretty Boy Floyd gets too long a stretch

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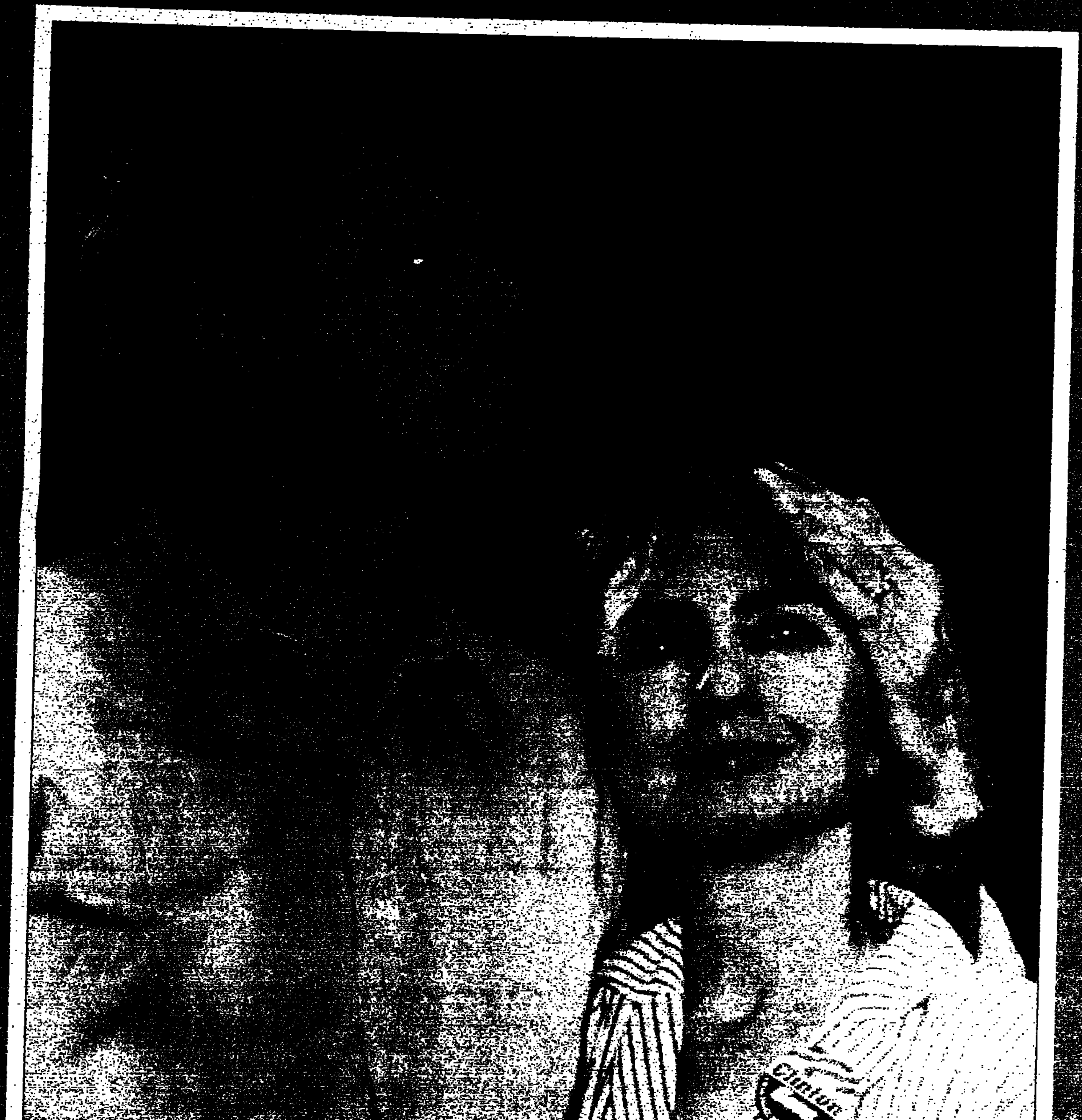
WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 1996

THE STING IN THE CLINTONS' TALE



By Peter Stothard

Four years ago this weekend I was a "scorp" in New Hampshire. I was not a powerful "big-foot scorp" nor even a favoured "small-city scorp" but still a scorpion, a reporter, with a mild sting in my tail, covering the rise of Bill Clinton.

The two biggest stories of that time have almost faded from memory now. Gennifer Flowers, the bottle-blonde who claimed that Clinton was her lover and had listening-impaired tapes to prove it, is now just a footnote in the dictionaries of oddly-spelt girls' names. The then explosive allegation that Clinton dodged the Vietnam draft has been defused by repetition: it is used today only by the most rebarbative Republicans.

But, while the known facts of the last New Hampshire primary election may have died, the facts-behind-the-facts are back. They form the central events of *Primary Colors*, a cult novel of campaign sex (qualitatively different, it is said, from any other kind), campaign intrigue (peculiarly impersonal and careless) and campaign banter between husband and wife ("he could be a great man," said the would-be First Lady without looking at her husband, "if he weren't such a faithless, thoughtless, disorganised, undisciplined shit").

The book is by Anonymous. Washingtonians spend much of their time these days wondering who Anonymous is. What they know is that it can only have been written by someone with sources very, very close to Mr and Mrs Clinton in New Hampshire, Arkansas and New York in 1992.

We foreign journalists play traditionally little part in the electoral machine which is now, once again, roaring across the snow of north eastern America. So we do not feature much in *Primary Colors*. The only reference in the book to a non-American scorp is to a Swedish television crew whose visibility at a campaign event is a clear sign to insiders that the real story has moved on.

But we were certainly there in New Hampshire '92: in Bill Clinton's case we had been there in full British force before all the American papers. In the headquarters of Media Inc it took a long time for the cent to drop that a Governor of backward Arkansas might win the Democratic nomination over the favourite sons of Massachusetts, California and New York.

We were interested in Bill Clinton because Bill Clinton knew Britain. He had studied at Oxford. And he gave "full ear", as Anonymous puts it in his particular and linguistically pungent style.

In the early days of the campaign Clinton listened and talked even to scorps whose stings could not hurt him and whose support was of almost no use. He had few "vols" to get between us and him. The busloads of volunteering Friends of Bill did not show up until the battle was nearly won.

There was always a small scattering of "muffins", the mostly female college students who pursue the hot candidate like camp-followers of a victorious army. But the candidate himself was often virtually alone, sometimes seeming to rehearse to us the few lines about foreign policy which occasionally crept into his speeches.

Our reporters' lives were ruled by campaign gossip. But we did not suspect one half of what Anonymous describes now. The only time that the fictional Governor Jack Stanton mentions Russia in New Hampshire is to buy off a blackmailing Lithuanian bus-driver who wants to spill some sexual harassment beans to the local pencils. (NOTE: all pencils are scorps but not all scorps, who include television reporters, are pencils.)

The Governor in the novel also has to find time to appease Fat Willie, the Arkansas barbecue-man whose backward daughter is a quickie gubernatorial conquest on the trail-side. The campaign sexual order, it seems, is that strategists "bake" muffins, the candidate bakes anything in a skirt that moves (including the prim librarian on a stop-by at an adult-literacy programme) and the narrator, Stanton's deputy campaign boss, bakes Daisie the spin-doctor (but it is only campaign sex, cosy, comforting, cold-ridden: the real thing has to wait until

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

TRISTAN KENTON

Sexism in action: Tricia Kelly and Rachel Power star in Lisa Evans's modern adaptation of Mrs Henry Wood's Victorian melodrama, *East Lynne* (see Theatre)

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

EAST LYNNE Stage adaptations of Mrs Henry Wood's bestseller were as common in Victorian times as vampires in Transylvania, thanks to the sensationalism of her tale of the errant wife who returns home disguised as her son's governess, only to witness his death from TB. But Lisa Evans's new version ditches lines such as "dead, and never called me Mother!", replaces antique melodrama with a surprising amount of human truth, and, with only a little tampering of the original evidence, gives a modern slant to what is already a chilling portrait of sexism in action.
Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London SE10 (0181-858 7755). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.45pm; matinée: Saturday at 2.30pm. ♿

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC With *Company* soon to move from the Donmar to the West End, Stephen Sondheim's disenchanted views about marriage are about as fully represented in London as they could be. *Night Music* brings wit and insight to frigidity, infidelity and other subjects seldom tackled by big musicals, and Sean Mathias's lavish production adds plenty of feeling, best represented by Judi Dench's transformation of *Send in the Clowns* from a cynical dirge into a passionate lament for emotional loss and failure.
Olivier, National, South Bank, London *SE1 (0171-928 2252)*. Evenings: Thur 22 to Sat 24, 7.15pm; matinée: Sat 24, 2pm. Continues in repertoire. ♿

JAZZ

Clive Davis

CLEO LAINE Hearing her wrap Dave Frishberg's satirical gem *Peel Me a Grape* in her fruity vowels is one good reason for catching Cleo Laine's sortie into the Green Room. A mischievous and underrated songwriter, Frishberg anticipated Ivana Trump and our very own young royals by a good 30 years. With John Dankworth's sprightly arrangements pared down for a quartet in these plush surroundings, Laine's multi-octave voice still dazzles. *Creole Love Call*, *I Thought About You* and a funky *St Louis Blues* are among the highlights of an absorbing programme.
Café Royal, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), tonight, Tues 20 to Sat 24, 9.15pm.

JAMES CARTER/TOMMY SMITH James Carter, saxophone wunderkind, arrives in London trailing the kind of critical praise previously lavished on another rising American star, Joshua Redman. An aggressive player who is not averse to piling up raw R & B licks, Carter goes all mellow and cuddly on his new jazz ballads collection *The Real Quietstorm*. Tommy Smith, Scotland's great tenor hope, has been out of the limelight since the short-lived glory days with Blue Note. He returns to Soho with an exceptional line-up including trumpeter Guy Barker and saxophonist Andy Panayi.
Carter: **The Rhythmic**, Chapel *Market, London* N1 *(0171-713 5859)*, Wed 21, Thur 22, 9pm. ♿
Smith: **Pizza Express**, Dean St, London W1 (0171-439 8722), Wed 21 to Sat 24, 9pm.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

JUMANJI (PG) With luck, any merchandise inspired by the film will not include the Jumanji board game that releases tigers and other jungle terrors into the house of whoever throws the dice. The game also unleashes Robin Williams, sucked into the board 25 years earlier, and desperate to complete the game. The storyline could be strengthened, but the action is spectacular. Joe Johnston directs.
Clapham (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772), **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096), **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666), **Leicester Square** (01426 915683), **Marble Arch** (01426 914501), **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332).

ULYSSES' GAZE (PG) Theo Angelopoulos is a master of visual poetry, though the layers of allegory impede dramatic progress. Harvey Keitel seems more symbol than human being as an emigré film-maker returning to his heritage to trace fragments of a film shot by pioneers of Balkan cinema in 1905. Angelopoulos attempts to honour cinema's centenary, the current Bosnian conflict, Greek myth, and his own concerns — a grand, impossible task. But just watch that sailing ship, pale blue from mast-head to prow, edging into the grey harbour: sheer magic.
Lumiere (0171-836 0691); **Renoir** (0171-837 8402); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121).

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

RATTLE'S RAVEL Such is the huge "lead time" in the classical music business that Sir Simon Rattle, who announced his resignation from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra this month, actually remains at the helm for another two years. His CBSO concerts on Tuesday and Thursday this week see him in late-Romantic mood: Ravel's sensuous *Mother Goose* ballet, and that impressionistic masterpiece *La Valse*, are preceded by the Sibelius Violin Concerto played by the teenage sensation Sarah Chang.
Symphony Hall, Broad St, Birmingham (0121-212 3333), Tues 20, Thur 22, 7.30pm. ♿

SHARK REVIVED Not many pieces of music are named after surfboards; Frank Zappa's *The Yellow Shark* is one of them. It was the rock pioneer's last significant composition: a clangorous, funny *and bizarre mixture of orchestral,* rock and synthesised sounds. At the Festival Hall tomorrow it is recreated by Zappa's favourite collaborators, the Ensemble Modern, for one performance only. In the same programme is a performance of *Deserts* by an earlier pioneer, Edgard Varese, who had a considerable influence on Zappa; this will be accompanied by a specially made video by the artist Bill Viola. A feast for ear and eye.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), tomorrow, 5pm. ♿

Frank Zappa's composition resurfaces at the Festival Hall

ROCK

David Sinclair

ERIC CLAPTON After last year's rather severe blues showcase, normal service is resumed for Eric Clapton's tenth consecutive Albert Hall residency. With no new album to promote, rock's most distinguished instrumentalist will doubtless present a broad cross-section of standards and favourites from a repertoire spanning more than three decades. His band will incorporate the drummer Steve Gadd along with stalwarts such as Andy Fairweather Low, guitar, Jerry Portnoy, harmonica, and Chris Stainton, keyboards, so the musicianship will naturally be of the highest order, if a little on the relaxed side for some tastes.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (0171-589 8212), Feb 18-20, 22-24, 26-28, Mar 1-3. ♿

PULP Following their Christmas dates at Brixton, the Britpop darlings are back with a tour which marks their first incursion into the arena circuit. Led by the irrepressible Jarvis Cocker, their show is a bright, theatrical production, freighted with grand, anthemic pop songs such as *Common People, that should prove ideally suited to* the demands of the nation's more cavernous venues. The guest on all dates is the post-modernist pop maestro Edwyn Collins, whose band features former Sex Pistol Paul Cook on drums.
Brighton Centre (01273 202881), Feb 20; **Cardiff International Arena** ♿ (01222 224488), Feb 21; **NEC**, Birmingham ♿ (0121-780 4133), Feb 22; **Manchester Arena** ♿ (0161-834 4477), Feb 23; **Royal Highland Centre**, Ingliston, Edinburgh (0131-333 3036), Feb 25; **Newcastle Arena** ♿ (0191-401 8000), Feb 26; **Humberside Ice Arena**, Hull (01482 215004), Feb 28; **Sheffield Arena** ♿ (0114-256 5656), Feb 29; **Wembley Arena** ♿ (0181-900 1234), Mar 1.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Hurry — word of mouth after last week's triumphant first night will have started a run on the English National Opera box-office. This is *one of those productions after* which the work in question will never be the same again: Mark Elder's muscular, lean conducting and David Alden's taut direction turn an opera that can seem a morbid, self-indulgent, self-lacerating study of love-equals-death into something altogether bigger. The cast is superb, led by Elizabeth Connell's radiant heroine, with George Gray and Gwynne Howell as the men in her life.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8000), Tues 20, 5pm. ♿

Elizabeth Connell as the radiant heroine in *Tristan and Isolde*

SEMELE "No oratorio, but a bawdy opera," as one contemporary put it, and quite right. Congreve's saucy libretto deals on the surface with a fluffy royal mistress who gets ideas above her station, but Handel's music turns a cynical morality play into a compassionate study of human frailty. The lyric-coloratura Ruth Ann Swenson makes her debut in the lead, Philip Langridge is Jupiter, with Felicity Palmer as Juno. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Mon 19, 7pm. ♿

DANCE

John Percival

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD The characters of Hardy's novel form the basis of David Bintley's new work for Birmingham Royal Ballet. He promises an exploration of the emotional world of Bathsheba Everdene and her admirers. Letitia Müller and Monica Zamora both play the heroine during the Birmingham run.
Hippodrome, Birmingham ♿ (0121-622 7486). Preview Wed 21, premiere Thur 22 to Sat 24, plus March 1 and 2 at 7.30pm; matinée: *Saturdays, 2.30pm:* ***Theatre Royal***, Plymouth ♿ (01752 267222), March 7-9; **Empire**, Sunderland ♿ (0191-514 2517), March 14-16; **Empire**, Liverpool ♿ (0151-709 1555), March 21-23; **Mayflower**, Southampton ♿ (01703 711811), March 28-30; **Hippodrome**, Bristol ♿ (0117 9299244), May 16-18.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES The Peter Williams Design for Dance project brings together each year young designers, musicians and choreographers to experiment in the creation of short, new works with a minimal budget. Organised by the St Martin's College of Art and Design, members of their theatre design course are joined by students from the Royal Ballet School (today), the College of the Royal Academy of Dancing (Thursday and Friday), Central School of Ballet (Feb 29, March 1) and London Contemporary Dance School (March 7 and 8).
Cochrane Theatre, Southampton Row, London WC1 (0171-242 7404), 7.30pm; matinee, today, 2.30pm. ♿

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

TONY OURSLER A mesmerising experience in the darkened rooms of the Lisson Gallery, where a young American artist explores the theme of multiple personalities with theatrical flair. Oursler often uses video to project a moving, talking human face onto a dummy. The words it speaks are disjointed, and suggest a divided self. But there is wry humour as well as pathos in this exhibition. One detached head is shown mouthing inside a plexiglass cube full of water. The show whets the appetite for Oursler's appearance in Part II of the *Young Americans* survey at the Saatchi Gallery in March.
Lisson Gallery, Bell St and Lisson St, London NW1 (0171-724 2739), until Feb 24.

PETER DOIG Born in Edinburgh, Doig emigrated to Canada with his family during the 1960s. He only returned to Britain in 1979, and memories of growing up in Quebec and Ontario still nourish his paintings. The experience of skiing dominates his new show at the Victoria Miro Gallery. In one tall picture, he catches the moment of exultation when a skier leaves the ground and travels through the air. But the most beautiful painting on view here takes us deep into the snow. It is also the most simplified picture, and its purged, lonely sensuousness lingers in the memory.
Victoria Miro Gallery, Cork St, London W1 (0171-734 5082), until March 8.

[illegible]

John Russell Taylor

THE GREAT PAVEMENT in the Choir of Westminster Abbey must be one of the earliest works (since the Roman invasion, anyway) to be commissioned for England from Italy. It was brought back by Abbot Ware, and laid in 1268. It is an intricate pattern of squares and circles, made up of coloured marbles and tesserae of coloured glass. Through the centuries it has suffered both from natural wear-and-tear and from the depredations of souvenir-hunters. Consequently it has recently spent most of its time covered from view. Last year it was exhibited for a few days, and this year it is on view again, for just four days, the last two of which are today and Monday.
Westminster Abbey, London SW1 (0171-222 5152), today, 9.30am-2pm; Mon 19, 9.30am-3.30pm.

WEDDINGS Although the traditional wedding dress is something long and white, neither the earliest pink silk from 1787, nor the most recent red silk covered with gold metal embroidery, worn for a Sikh wedding in July 1994, conforms to the stereotype. The exhibition may be seen partly as a subtle advertisement: civil weddings can now take place in venues such as the adjacent Assembly Rooms. But the collection of more than 50 outfits is fascinating in itself.
Museum of Costume, Assembly Rooms, Bennett Street, Bath (01225 477789), Mon-Fri, 5.30pm; Sat, 10am-5pm, until 1998. ♿

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

◪ **1953** Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of Racine's *Andromache*, updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. Patrick Marber (author of *Dealer's Choice*) directs.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm ♿

☐ **THE CHANGING ROOM** David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. James Macdonald directs the third in the season of Royal Court Classics.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171 836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. ♿

◪ **CHAPTER TWO** Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play two unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Now previewing, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Opens Feb 19, 7pm.

☐ **COMMUNICATING DOORS** Angela Thorne in Ayckbourn's ingenious time travel play, fleeing from a vengeful enemy via the doors of a hotel that take her forward and back a couple of decades.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

■ **COMPANY** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

☐ **FUNNY MONEY** Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce. Rodney Bewes is the [illegible] taxi-driver.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm ♿

■ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Sam Mendes's radiant production: Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter. Ben Walden is Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm

☐ **HEAVEN BY STORM** The Umbilical Brothers, otherwise the Australian acrobatic comedians Shane Dundas and Dave Collins, bring their ingenious and alluring show to London.
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

■ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of [illegible] stands. The [illegible] includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, [illegible].
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

Chapter Two: Tom Conti stars at the Gielgud

■ **LEE EVANS** The rubber-boned comedian comes to the West End.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm. Until Mar 16.

■ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the sinister Inspector and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL** Mark Arden and [illegible] in revival of Willis Hall's celebrated wartime drama produced by Counterpoint Theatre Co.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

☐ **MARKURELL** Popular Swedish play, by Hjalmar Bergman, tale of a self-made man so determined his son shall pass his exams he decides to bribe the examiners with a champagne dinner. Gerry Mulgrew directs British premiere.
Chelsea Centre, World's End Place, King's Road, SW10 (0171-352 1967). Mon-Sat, 8pm

☐ **THE MISANTHROPE** Martin Crimp's contemporary version of Molière, directed by Lindsay Posner, with Ken Stott and Elizabeth McGovern in the leads.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. ♿

◪ **SERVING IT UP** Second in the "London Fragments" season. The new East London racism, easy violence and paranoia, by Romford-born David Eldridge. Jonathan Lloyd directs.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

■ **SKYLIGHT** Michael Gambon and Lia Williams, with Daniel Betts, in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. Richard Eyre directs this National theatre transfer.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Now previewing, 8pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Feb 20, 7pm.

☐ **SLAUGHTER CITY** New play, savage and surreal, set in a slaughter-house by Naomi Wallace. [illegible] piece about labour conditions. Confusing but vivid.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Feb 22, 7.15pm, mats today and Thurs, 2pm. In rep. ♿

■ **SWEET PANIC** Saskia Reeves plays a troubled mother stalking a child psychologist (Harriet Walter) in Stephen Poliakoff's play about the strains of life in today's London.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. ♿

◪ **TWO TRAINS RUNNING** Tony Armatrading and George Harris in August Wilson's atmospheric play about black Pittsburgh in the 1960s.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Feb 8 and 15, 2pm, Sat, 4pm ♿

◪ **VALLEY SONG** Athol Fugard plays the grandfather in his latest play, with Esmeralda Bihl as the girl daydreaming of life in the city.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm

◪ **WILD OATS** Anton Lesser as Rover the touring actor whose talk is a patchwork of the roles he has played. Jeremy Sams's highly enjoyable revival of O'Keeffe's 1791 farce, with James Bolam.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2.15 and 7.30pm. In rep. ♿

◪ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the new annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm ♿

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ■ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ◪ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) ■ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ☐ **Mack and Mabel**: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) ◪ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ◪ **The Shakespeare Revue**: Vaudeville (0171-836 9987) ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

BED OF ROSES (PG): Wilting whimsical romance set in a fairy-tale New York, with Mary Stuart Masterson and Christian Slater. Director, Michael Goldenberg.
Plaza ♿ (0171-437 1234)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG): See Critics' Choice above.

OTHELLO (12): Laurence Fishburne as the leading Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago. Lively version for general audiences. Director, Oliver Parker.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

ULYSSES' GAZE (PG): See Critics' Choice above.

CURRENT

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18): Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director, Chris Noonan.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234), **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121), **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

BRAVEHEART (15): Overly blood-thirsty epic, with Mel Gibson as the 13th-century Scottish rebel William Wallace. Gibson also directs.
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

CLOCKERS (18): Spike Lee's heavy-handed version of Richard Price's novel about young drug-dealers in Brooklyn. With Harvey Keitel, Delroy Lindo and Mekhi Phifer.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15): Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama. Director, John N. Smith.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

DESPERADO (18): Overblown follow-up to *El Mariachi* with Antonio Banderas as the guitar-playing killer seeking vengeance. Director, Robert Rodriguez.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II** (PG): Steve Martin faces the perils of [illegible]. Bland comedy sequel, with Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams. Director, Charles Shyer.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15): Crisis point for a woman writer of romantic fiction. Surprisingly sober and tender drama from Pedro Almodóvar. With Marisa Paredes.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG): A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, directed by Frank Oz.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

Maia Morgenstern, who co-stars in *Ulysses' Gaze*

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343) **Waterman's** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **JOHNNY MNEMONIC** (15): The Yakuza want the contents of Keanu Reeves's head. Futuristic folly from cyberpunk author William Gibson. Director, Robert Longo.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574)

◆ **A LITTLE PRINCESS** (U): Marvellous rendering of the children's classic, with Liesel Matthews as the boarding school girl plunged from riches to rags. Director, Alfonso Cuarón.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343) **Waterman's** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **LOCH NESS** (PG): Ted Danson looks for Nessie in a dull, harmless adventure. With Joely Richardson. Director, John Henderson.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

IL POSTINO (U): Michael Radford's heartwarming delight about a simple man opening his eyes to poetry. Wonderful performance by the late Massimo Troisi.
Gate, Sunday ♿ (0171-727 4043) **MGM Panton Street** (0171-930 0631)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031).

◆ **WAITING TO EXHALE** (15): Crude comedy-drama about black women's man problems. With Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

WITHNAIL & I (15): Revival of Bruce Robinson's quirky cult comedy, with Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann as would-be actors miserable in the Lake District.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

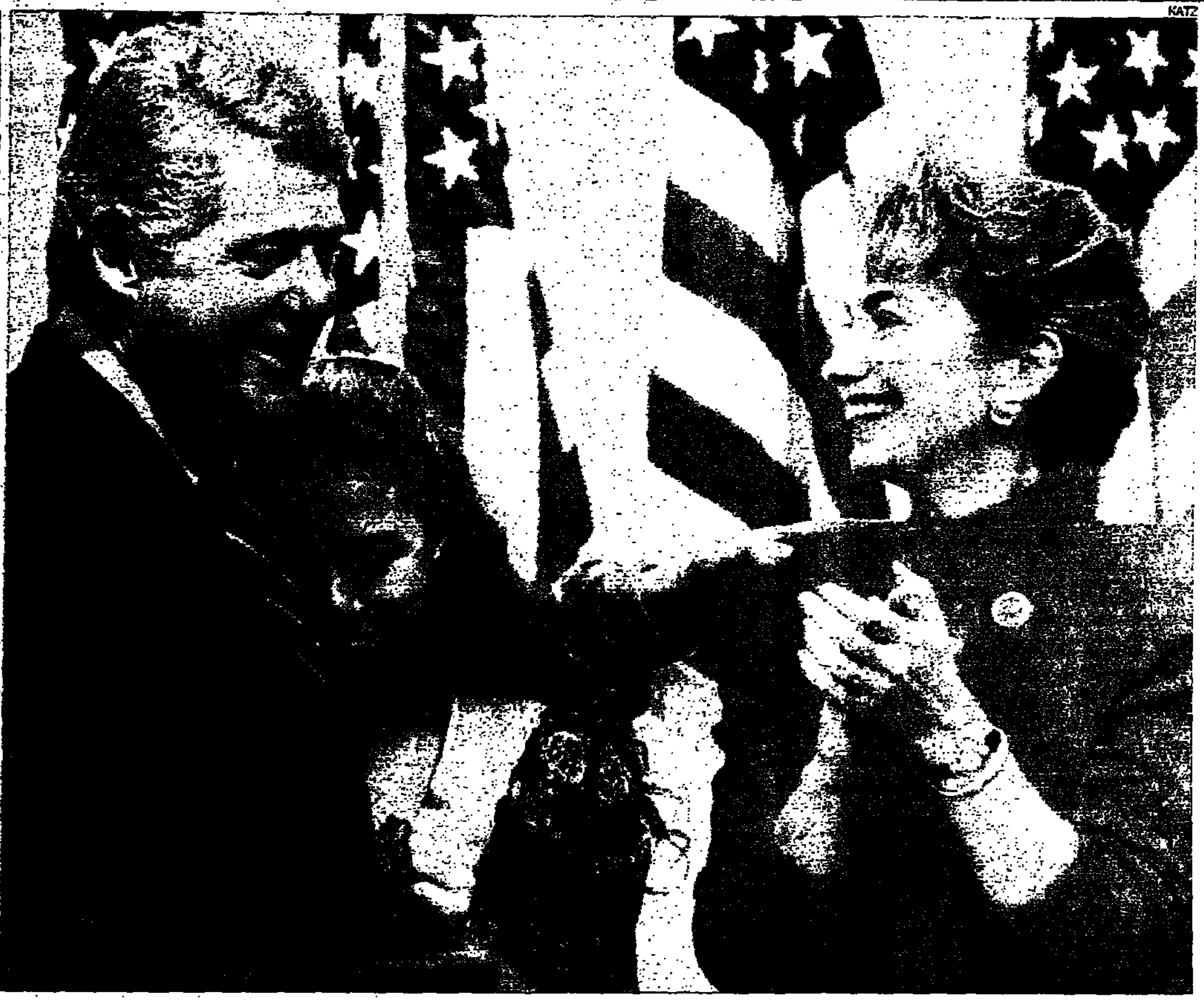
هكذا من الأصل

'She drops his hand as if it were a dead rat'

FSP

The Clintons slogging along the campaign trail in New York in 1991

KATZ REX


KATZ

For Stanton read Clinton? The President celebrates at an inaugural ball having nearly been "toasted" by Gennifer Flowers. Bill and Hillary, here with their daughter Chelsea, presented a united front on television

Continued from page 1

Stanton loses and they can all go to Bermuda).

The *narrator*, whose fictional name is Henry Burton but *whose real name is today* sought *by the cream of US* journalism, also bakes Mrs Stanton. But, well, it is only once, and at a very low point in the campaign's fortunes.

The candidate's wife is the undisputed political leader of the novel's events. She is the heroine. It is she who listens to the narrator when he miserably recalls the "lulus", the artificial sweeteners without which nothing in his previous political job in Congress could get done. It is she whose skilful use of language diverts the press from their prey: with a well-chosen word or two she can scatter the gulls from the garbage barge of her husband's campaign.

Washingtonians still argue today about the extent to which Hillary Clinton rules the White House. In 1996 it is part of the President's burden to defend his wife against charges of financial deceit and political cover-up: the focus is on Mrs Clinton's role in the Whitewater affair. In 1992 all the defending was on the other side.

How, for example, was the Governor to counter the allegations of Gennifer Flowers? In *Primary Colors* Mrs Stanton hears the news of the scandalous tapes and says, unusually, "Henry, could you excuse us please?". She slaps her husband round the face to make him even more pink than usual and then has to decide what to do. The would-be First Couple choose to give a 20 minute *state-of-the-marriage* address, delivered on television to a massive national audience after the Superbowl. The price of failure: the whole Stanton campaign would be "toast".

Four years ago, if Mrs Clinton had not taken part in that most bizarre of broadcasts, there would almost certainly be no President Clinton today. The book's account closely follows my memory of the event as it happened: at a difficult moment in the interview with some serious network scorps, she grasps his hand. In the book, she does the same, triumphantly admitting that "we did have some tough times in our marriage but we worked our way through it". When the studio lights go off, she drops his hand "as if it were a dead rat".

Anonymous's novel is more than a political *roman à clef*: of course, the author denies, for the record, that any of *Primary Colors'* events happened at all. This author knows at close quarters about the way scorps consort with pols. Since that is much of what modern American democracy is about, the novel helps its readers to understand much about modern American democracy.

Early in 1992 the bigshot scorps and their bosses were reluctant to repeat the confessions of Gennifer Flowers that had appeared on cable television and in a supermarket tabloid. At one point readers of *The Times* in London would have known much more about her story than many Americans. But, as Anonymous correctly analyses, American reporters found ways to write about it — at one remove.

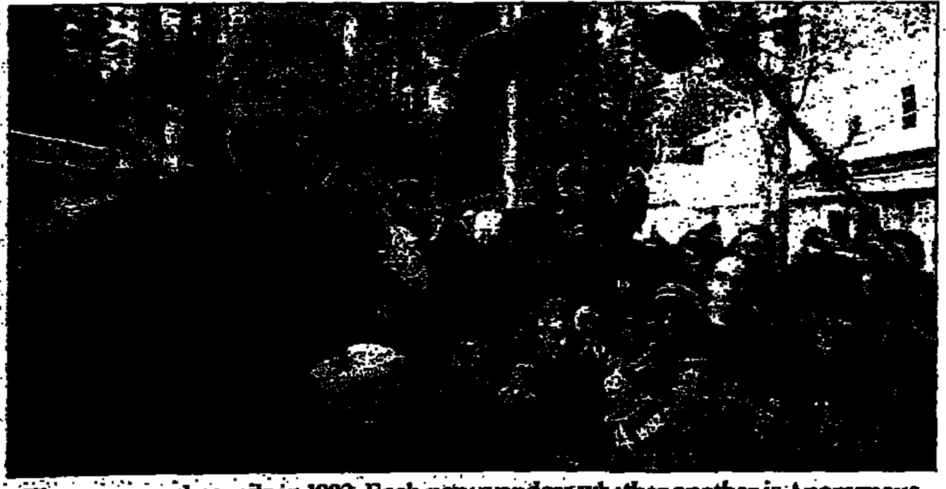
"The scorps weren't reporting the trash, but *how we* dealt with the trash," writes the narrator. "The story hadn't really broken yet — and already it was one step removed: the press was reporting about how the candidate would deal with how the press would report about the story." And so it was. We were all in it one way or another, the much-distrusted national pencils, the much-stroked and cosseted local pencils, the television scorps and the British reporters whose allegations, dignified by distance, would occasionally feed back into the process from London.

Anonymous also describes well the mysteries of negative campaigning, of finding dirt on your opponent and being ready to use it. He calls it "oppo", "the primal impulse, the headquarters of all tactics and strategy, the oldest and most dishonourable exercise linked to the Will to Power". While one part of Stanton's team is dealing with Barbecue Willie's daughter and the awkward personal result of his "defeat by the fundies on sex education" in Arkansas, another is preparing to smear his opponent over a dubious land deal, a lulu too far. This mere threat of oppo is enough.

Why do politicians put up with the pressures of office-seeking, the discomfort, the fudges "the eternity of false smiles"? Some, says Anonymous, just want to win for the sake of winning "and they're willing to sell their souls, crawl through sewers, lie to the people, play to their worst fears". For others, certainly in his view for Bill Clinton, "it is the price you pay to lead".

"You don't think Abraham Lincoln was a whore before he was President?" asks Stanton. "He had to tell his little stories and smile his shit-eating back country grin. He did it all just so he'd get the opportunity, one day, to stand in front of the nation and appeal to the better angels of our nature."

Like President Clinton, the author of *Primary Colors* is a fierce optimist about what politicians can achieve. Despite his disgust with the process — bad meals, bad trips, bad people, even the bad sex — he does not deride the urge for idealists to rise to the top in politics. He does *not* subscribe to determinist beliefs that politicians merely grab rewards of what would have happened even if they themselves had never existed. He loves the Clintons — and he loves his presidential primary candidates, all of them.


NETWORK

The scorps and pencils in 1992. Each new wonders whether another is Anonymous

We may not know the author's real name until financial results of the copyright-holding company, Machiavelliana Inc, have to be revealed to the tax authorities in 1997. Almost everyone in Washington who might have written it has been chased by other journalists in Washington who might have written it — and issued more or less comprehensive denials. My good friend and campaign watcher, Christopher Hitchens, has suggested his own list of suitably well-connected possibilities. He has also been seen signing copies in bookshops himself.

In response to promptings from my old haunts, I have even asked my secretive novelist wife, Sally Emerson, about her recent research trips to Washington. "Hmmm . . . that American novel you've been working on?" But she too denies authorship. Even the publisher, apparently, does not know where his latest best-seller has come from.

By the time that the truth is out, no one may be interested. Bill Clinton may not even be President. But he *must* be enjoying himself now as the Republicans take their turn to stomp through the New Hampshire snows, savaging each other amid the piles of damp posters and hotel pizza, struggling for the right sort of attention from the scorps, gulls and pencils. Even the most idealistic of presidents may some time like to make a millionaire of one of his admirers. Whether he knows who Anonymous is or not, President Clinton has achieved that end at least.

● *The author is Editor of* The Times. Primary Colors *is published in Britain on Monday by Chatto & Windus (£15.99).*

Cover image of the Clintons in 1992 by KATZ

Ruth Gledhill finds missionary zeal in Barbados

Singing for salvation

COCOONED in the artificial and sensuous world of their hotels, visitors to Barbados are often unaware that it is an intensely religious society. It can take a visit to a local Caribbean church to discover the strange contradictions in a tiny island which is partly reminiscent of middle-England 30 years ago, and partly akin to modern-day America.

Our taxi driver, Berkeley White, explained that the church into whose hands he was about to deliver us was one of the biggest on the island. Sure enough, when we arrived, the church was packed with nearly 1,800 people, the women in brightly coloured cottons, silks and sequins and the men, though fewer in number, also dressed in Sunday-best jacket and tie.

The Abundant Life Assembly church takes its name from John 10:10: "I am come that they might have life and that more abundantly." The members of one of the most impressive church pop bands I have ever seen ascended the stage to take their places followed by the large gospel choir. The church is part of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies, the largest such grouping in the eastern Caribbean, founded in the 1940s by Canadian pentecostalists.

The religious equivalent of a warm-up man put us in the mood for the lively worship to come. "Good morning to all of you," he announced with an enormous grin. "Have you said good morning to the person next to you? Have you turned round and blessed them?" This made a change from the stilted exchanges of the "peace" I was more used to. We all blessed each other with hugs and kisses, and clapped and danced through our first gospel hymn, *There is Power in the Blood.*

More songs followed, working the congregation to a pitch where some began murmuring strange things, "speaking in tongues" as it is known in charismatic congregations.

Then came an interjection which turned out to be the first of many in similar vein, but felt strange to me as someone used to an established church blessed with endowments where appeals for cash during worship are still, even today, fairly discreet. "When you invest money into mission, you know that it is something that is part of what God is doing," the worship leader said.

Later, we heard that the church gives 12,000 Barbados dollars each month to missionary work, equivalent to about £4,000. The pastor asked each one to pray for guidance on how much they should pledge, and promised he would not behave like a hire purchase company. "I will never send you a letter saying you are behind with your payments," he said. "It is between you and God."

Our preacher, the Rev Gerry Gallimore, took to the stage. Jamaican-born, he had travelled to Barbados from Singapore, where he heads the missionary organisation Youth for Christ. His sermon, which seemed to become louder as he progressed and his enthusiasm grew, was compelling.

As the phrase "rock bottom" achieved new meaning for me, I prayed finally for salvation. As if reading my mind, Mr Gallimore stared at me and said: "Salvation is free but it ain't cheap." I left, materially poorer, physically weaker, but feeling profoundly changed and richer.

The Abundant Life Assembly, Bank Hall, St Michael, Barbados (001 809 427 9166).

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five star guide* ★

PASTOR:
The Rev William Cuke.

ARCHITECTURE:
Enormous, 1990 church building in the former sugar-cane fields of a 150-year-old plantation house. ★★★

SERMON:
Long, tub-thumping but learned exposition of a part of John's gospel. ★★★

LITURGY:
Loosely structured around music and prayer, with the sermon as the central feature of this two-hour service. ★

MUSIC:
Bajan gospel soul singing. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH:
Cool, uplifting relief from fiery heat outside. ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE:
Bible study classes and spiritual counselling. Sunday church in Barbados is a day-long affair. ★★★

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q A tree surgeon says that red-orange fungus at the base of my 40-year-old Scots pine is *Fomes annosus*, which attacks the roots, and that the tree should be felled. Is there any alternative, and is it safe to replant another large, containerised Scots pine? — Mrs V. Burnett, Burley, Hampshire.

A *Fomes annosus*, or *Heterobasidion annosum* as it is now known, is a common killer of Scots pines. It is not curable, nor is it easy to tell how far the infection has spread underground, but with all such root rots the tree will eventually fall over. Better to have it felled, and have the stump ground out professionally and replaced with fresh soil before replanting. (This fungus can pass from root to root, or enter through stem damage above ground.) I would replace the pine with a deciduous tree. If you really want a Scots pine, plant a few little ones for a few pence each and see what happens, rather than spending large sums on containerised stock.

Q I wish to hide, quickly, a section of south-facing fence under a birch tree. To the left and right the fence is screened with laurel and escallonia. A rhododendron died here last winter, and later an escallonia. What should I plant? — Mrs Dransfield, Wimbledon, south London.

A Rhododendrons do not die easily. I suspect that in this position, with thirsty, shallow birch roots and laurel roots, and in the rain shadow of the fence, it began to die of drought in summer. The same with the escallonia. If the area is dry and rooty, you may do better to plant old-fashioned, ironclad shrubs such as laurel, spotted laurel or the (slower) *Mahonia aquifolium*. Or you might train the large-leaved, yellow variegated ivy *Hedera colchica* 'Sulphur Heart' up the fence, with clumps of evergreen *Iris foetidissima* at its foot.

Q I have a bank of wild cyclamen and they are moving downhill. Can I replant the corms back at the top of the slope and, if so, when? The corms vary from 2in-3in across to small seedlings. — H.C. Maude, Canterbury, Kent.

A These hardy cyclamens readily seed and naturally migrate downwards. They are suited to poor soil or thin grass under the shade of trees. The smaller corms move best when, say, half an inch across, but larger ones can be moved, too, taking care to minimise root disturbance. In ideal conditions, cyclamens can grow several times larger than your largest corm, so at 2in-3in it is not too late to move them. Do this in late summer as the leaves begin to grow, retaining a plug of soil and enough root for them to anchor until established. Also, collect seedheads (easy to spot on those corkscrew stems) and scatter seed at the top of the slope.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

Whiten the dark with carpets of snowdrops

Stephen Anderton tells how to tune in to the welcoming heralds of a new spring

The common snowdrop, *Galanthus nivalis*, will spread naturally in clumps, even when planted in grass

Although I have never found the precise source of the quotation, a friend always used to quote Vita Sackville-West as saying: "You can never have too much white in a garden." This is probably true. In summer, any colour scheme can be emulsified with white *ad infinitum*, making the effect paler and paler, though not necessarily any less striking. In winter, when there are almost no hot colours about, white acquires a different importance. It somehow seems more at home, more significant and proper.

Snowdrops are the great winter whitener and it would be hard to plant too many of them, though the everywhere-at-all-costs, wall-to-wall planting of anything is dreary. They lighten darkness so well. Any ground under trees or shrubs, hidden in summer perhaps, may be carpeted with snowdrops when the leaves are off the trees. They will not do so well in rooty, dry shade, but in a fertile soil with adequate moisture, they multiply effortlessly from year to year: pale heads "heavy as metal", as Ted Hughes describes them.

Plant them in sheets, dense in some parts and thinner in others. The common *Galanthus nivalis* will seed itself and spread naturally, and build up into vigorous clumps, even when planted in grass. A new carpet planted at 6in centres soon thickens into a seemingly continuous cover — especially with occasional disturbance from gardeners or moles.

Some of the other named varieties of snowdrop, available from specialist suppliers, are far less vigorous and better suited to use in borders.

When planting for a natural effect, vary the distances between plants, putting some areas in at 2in to 3in centres, and others more widely. There should also be variation in the size of clumps, from single bulbs to twos and threes and even a dozen.

The best time to divide and replant is at flowering time, or just after, because the whiteness helps to show how dense a planting is being achieved. They wilt after planting, of course, unless you divide them only into clumps. But no watering is necessary. They pick up again after a few days, though the flowers are lost for that year. The important thing is to lift and replant them quickly.

And what to plant with snowdrops? Yellow aconites are the classic combination and work well among tree roots where the winter sun can penetrate. Similarly, they can be grown among the marbled leaves of autumn-flowering *Cyclamen hederifolium*. Alternatively, you can pair snowdrops with the violent pink of spring-flowering *C. coum*, or its white variant, *album*.

In recent years, more and more gardens with spectacular displays of snowdrops have been making special openings at this time of year. At Painswick Rococo Garden, Gloucestershire, the plants are thought to have been widely planted since at least 1795, and it was for James Atkins, head gardener there in the 1860s, that the robust form 'Atkinsii' was named. At Belsay Castle, Northumberland, Lady Anne Ettrick is said to have planted snowdrops as early as the 1720s.

Guessing the exact timing of a snowdrop display is never easy. It varies from north to south and according to aspect. A fortnight before the common snowdrops comes *Galanthus elwesii*, with broad, attractively grey leaves. The earliest snowdrops arrive before Christmas: *G. reginae-olgae* appears (without its leaves) in September, and *G. corcyrensis* shortly after.

The best snowdrops I have seen so far this year were in watercolour paintings by Jenny Jowett at the Royal Horticultural Society's January show in London. Each painting, mostly of named varieties, included cut-away close-ups of the subtle differences in their markings. They were selling fast, and clearly recognised as the best way to appreciate these polite distinctions.

GARDENS TO VISIT

THE following gardens open for snowdrop time (check for flowering by telephone).

- ☐ **Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridgeshire (01223 811200): Sat-Sun until Feb 25, 11am-4pm. £3.20, children half price.**
- ☐ **Belsay Hall, Northumberland (01661 881636): daily, 10am-4pm. £2.60, children half price.**
- ☐ **Fountains Abbey, Ripon, North Yorks (01765 608888): daily until the end of Mar, 10am-5pm. £4, children half price.**
- ☐ **Hodsock Priory, Blyth, near Worksop, Nottinghamshire (01909 591204): open weekdays noon-4pm, weekends 10am-4pm, until Mar 10. £2, children free.**
- ☐ **Ickworth Park, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (01284 735270): daily, 7am-7pm. £2 per car.**
- ☐ **Kingston Lacey, Wimborne Minster, Dorset (01202 883402): daily until Feb 18, 11am-4pm. £1, under-16s free.**
- ☐ **Painswick Rococo Garden, Painswick, Gloucestershire (01452 813204): Wed-Sun, 11am-5pm. £2.75, children £1.50.**

[illegible]

- ● *Divide and replant clumps of aconites and snowdrops while still in full leaf, and even flower.*
- ● *Protect early blossom on wall fruit trees against frost with polythene, netting, or paper.*
- ● *Cut back to two to three buds the long wands of growth on wisteria.*
- ● *Sow, over heat, bedding plants requiring an early start, such as begonia, lobelia and antirrhinum.*
- ● *Remove old, dead leaves of* Helleborus orientalis *before flowering starts.*

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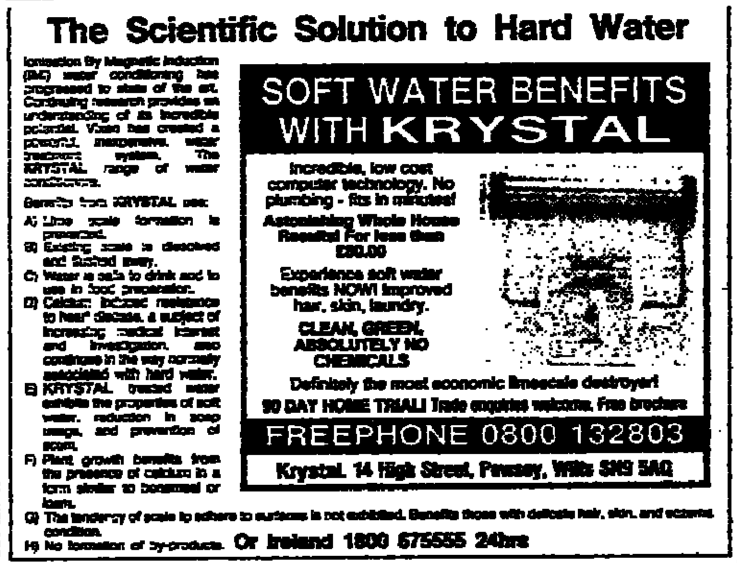

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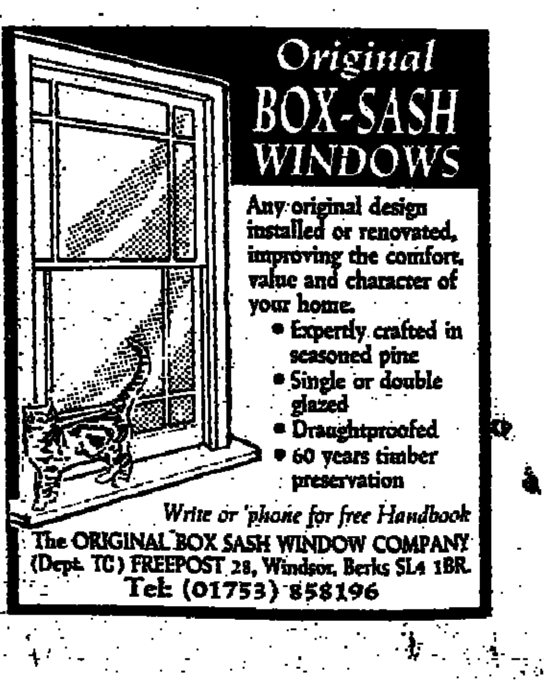

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The prince of Belgian rose gardens

Two famous gardens in Belgium are open to the public in June. This week: Château d'Hex

VIVIAN RUSSELL

A Buddha has been sitting cross-legged under his pagoda in the Chinese Garden at Château d'Hex for more than 200 years. The gardens, comprising more than 150 acres, are home to 350 varieties of old and species roses

On the first and third weekend of June, two women, who live 45 minutes apart in the Belgian province of Limbourg, open their remarkable gardens to the public. Neither of them is Belgian. Comtesse Nanda d'Ursel was born in Italy; Patricia van Roosmalen is from New Zealand. Marriage brought them to the gardens they have now tended for 35 years. Renowned in Belgium, the gardens have a lot to interest the British gardener.

This week we focus on the comtesse's gardens, part of a vast estate of 150 acres and home to 350 varieties of old and species roses. The potager alone comprises three and a half acres.

The comtesse, an art scholar and mother of seven, took over the Château d'Hex in 1959 when it passed on to her husband Michel, a great-great nephew of its creator, the Prince of Liège. She was lucky that Hex had never been abandoned so no restoration work was necessary. After removing the blazing salvias from the parterres, she was free to move forward and develop the full potential of the garden.

The Château d'Hex was built in 1770 as a summer residence by Charles de Velbruck, Prince Evêque of Liège, a patron of the arts and letters, with a keen interest in hunting and gardens. In the Jardin du Prince, named after him because his bedroom door opened on to it, a trio of China roses brought back for the prince by the East India Company more than 200 years ago, are still growing on their original roots: 'Old Blush', *R. chinensis multipetala* and a third, the identity of which remains a mystery.

Another of the prince's legacies is the Chinese Garden, where a Buddha has been sitting cross-legged under his pagoda, smiling and sticking out his tongue whenever the wind blows, for more than 200 years. In spring, a bird can claim the Buddha's accommodating belly for her nest, and a few weeks later the Buddha is alive with twittering.

After laying out the formal gardens, the Prince turned the rest of his estate into the first British parkland in Belgium, by introducing Aberdeen Angus and Welsh Black Sheep, which are still there today.

> The old gardener timed his sowing and harvesting according to the feast days of the saints

Today, 350 varieties of old and species roses are grown throughout the garden, potager and parkland. Even the Chinese garden has two miniature carpeting roses of *R. yakushimanense*, grown from seed the comtesse collected in Japan. Elsewhere, they drip down walls, hang over balustrades, weave into shrubs, climb trees. The strikingly placed *R.* 'Venusta Pendula' *is* draped over gates that open on to a two-kilometre avenue of plane trees crossing the estate. A particularly beautiful rose, not available in Britain, is a vigorous 1918 wichuraiana rambler, 'Paul Noel'. It is a seductive mix of colours — faded rose tinged with pale yellow and salmon — with the same healthy, glossy foliage as 'New Dawn', producing a few flowers here and there in autumn. The high walls around the enormous southwest facing potager, create a microclimate for tender roses which scramble against it, providing the protection they need.

In 1990 the comtesse brought Hex into the 20th century by asking Jacques Wirtz to redesign the parterre terraces on the southeast side of the château. The Belgian is

everywhere these days — redesigning the Tuileries gardens in Paris at the request of the late President François Mitterrand.

His plan for Hex was ingenious. Using three simple elements — grass, gravel and the box hedges that are his trademark — Wirtz has created an unadorned design that seems to flow out of the façade of the château.

The potager is almost as well known as the collection of roses, with many roses growing in borders alongside the wide variety of rare fruits and vegetables. When the comtesse arrived at the château it was looked after by an old gardener who timed all his sowing and harvesting according to the feast days of the saints. On rainy days he wove baskets that he used to harvest fruits and vegetables in the potager. During the winter he carved himself several pairs of clogs from poplar which he wore while gardening.

Of special interest are the underground fruit cellars carved out of the walls of the potager where the vegetables are replanted in the earth or stored and used throughout the winter.

The comtesse has not sought to impose her will on the garden, saying: "I adapted myself to the garden. It was the garden who fashioned me." She has taken up where the prince left off, preserving the character of the place while adding innovation and interest.

Such is her skill that the stitching together of old and new appears seamless.

VIVIAN RUSSELL

Next week: Patricia van Roosmalen's garden

CHATEAU D'HEX

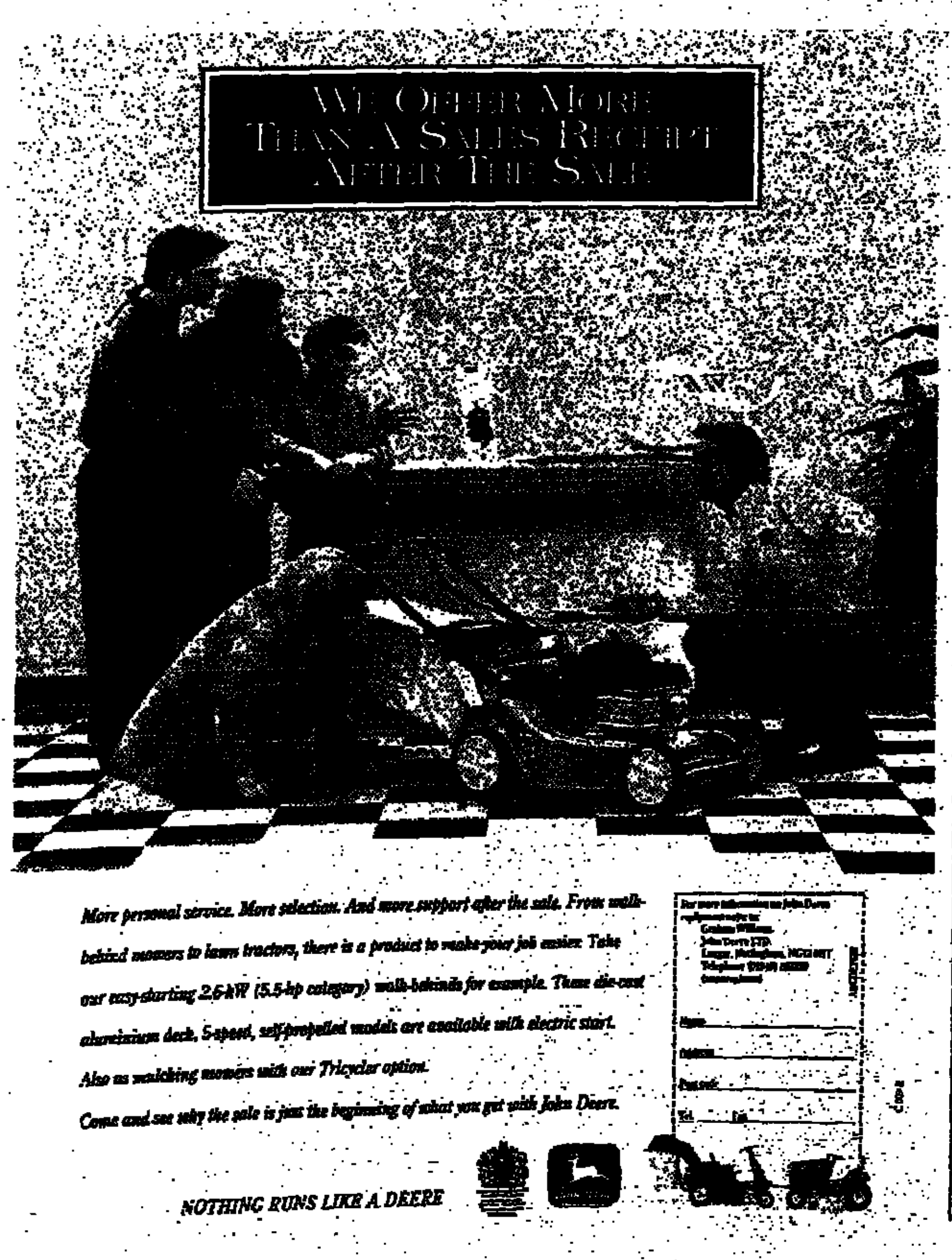
THE first open weekend is the Rose Festival at Château d'Hex (June 1-2). Rose nurseries will sell container-grown roses, and rose books, rose perfumes and gardening tools will be on sale.

The Potager Festival takes place on September 28-29. Specialised fruit and vegetable growers will be sell old and rare varieties (both edible and decorative) together with seeds, books, tools — all specific to the potager. There will be conferences and lectures giving advice and help to gardeners.

On both weekends the gardens are open 10am-6pm. For those wishing to visit Château d'Hex outside these weekends, private visits can be arranged by appointment from 10am to noon and 2-5pm (except August and only in the mornings in July). A guided tour lasts between one and a half and two hours.

● *Château d'Hex, B-3870 Heers, Belgium (12 74 73 41; fax 12 74 49 87).*

Statuary at Château d'Hex



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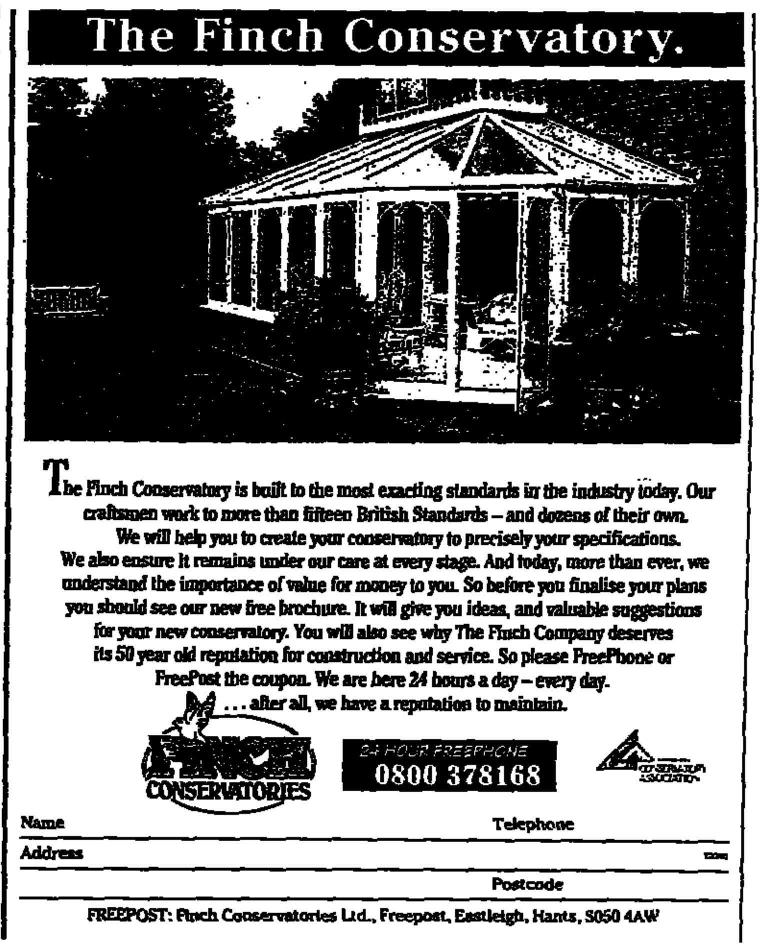

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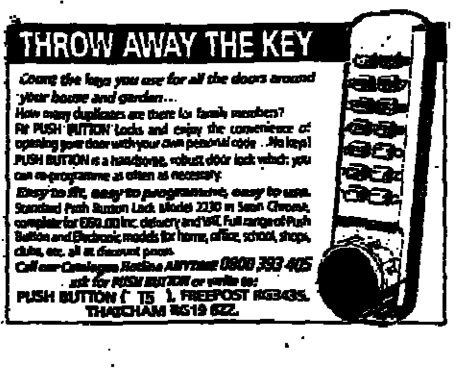

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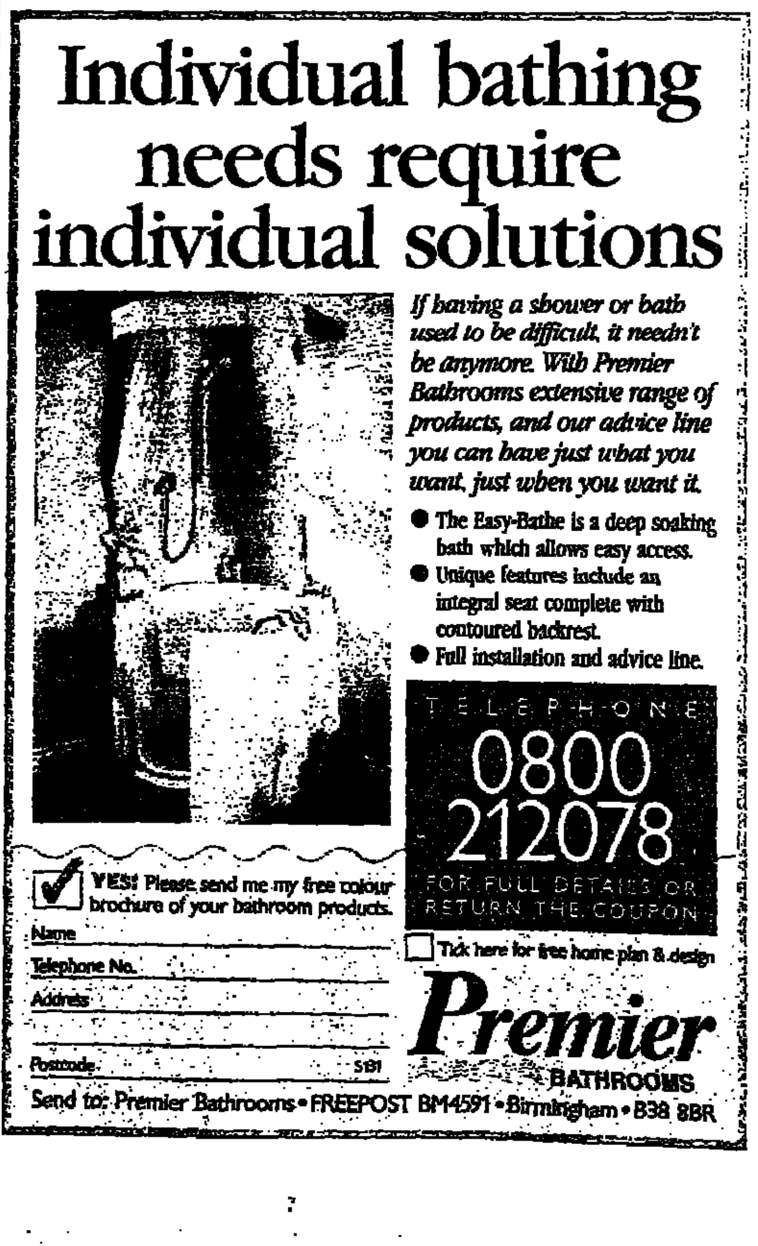

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هكذا فن الاهمل

BOOKS

Critical to be kind

A reviewer's integrity is under constant conflicting pressures

MARY LOUDON

I have been reviewing books for six years, but of the 58 reviews I have written, 30 have been in the past 18 months. Of those 58 books, I would classify nine as absolute horrors, 17 as various shades of indifferent, and 32 as ranging from good to exceptional. This does not mean a great deal. It is merely a reflection of *my taste, my opinions and* my preference to err on the side of generosity.

Should you judge all books using the same criteria? There is no point reviewing a blockbuster as you might review a serious novel or biography or social history. For example, I did not approach Anthony Storr's *Music and The Mind* as I approached Penny Vincenzi's novel *Another Woman*. Storr's book is an *erudite study of a* complex subject: Vincenzi's is blockbuster romantic fiction. I did not give Storr's book a glowing review because he is a better writer than Vincenzi and I did not give Vincenzi's book a poor review because it was not as good as Storr's; I gave it a poor review because even within its own terms I thought it disappointing.

Having said that, there are questions that pertain to every book. Does the author have anything to say? Is this book entertaining, original or instructive? If not, why not? If a book has nothing to say that has not been said *better before, or, worse still,* has nothing to say at all, it should never have been published. In these instances, it is your duty as a reviewer to speed it to the nearest recycling plant so that it can find new life as cereal packaging.

However, it is also your duty to seek out redeeming features. It is easier to isolate weaknesses than strengths, to resort to sarcasm than strive towards generosity, but it is wrong. Kindness may not be glamorous but it rarely hurts.

When is kindness dishonest? Four weeks ago I tore apart a novel by Elizabeth Pewsey on these pages because I thought it not only boring and unoriginal but snobbish. This was unfortu*nate for the author: all* reviewers have their *bêtes noirs* and snobbery is mine. Originally I was going to be marginally kinder but I disliked it so much that I decided a reluctance to say so would be dishonest. That was probably right, but on reflection I regret it a little. Imagining how much pain the review may have caused the author worried me. It is *never fun demolishing* a piece of work in which someone else has invested a tremendous amount. As a writer myself, I know only too well how much time, energy, love and hope are poured into a book and how terrible a bad review can make you feel.

Nevertheless, if you are not prepared to write a bad review, when something really marvellous falls into your lap, the validity of your *praise is diminished.* Compromise only compromises you. Of course, there is no guarantee that someone whose book you have criticised will not do the same to you. Yet my second book was given a lovely review by a writer whose own work I had attacked in print six months earlier, proving that in some admirable cases integrity can override a desire for revenge.

I have not been quite so generous. A few months ago I was sent for review a book by someone who hated my last one, so I sent it back. Perhaps I should have reviewed it, but I was concerned that my hostility, however unforgiving, was likely to cloud my judgment. I had no desire to rubbish the book, but I felt that it would get a fairer reading elsewhere.

In the end, though, there is no way of knowing how effective reviews are. Kate Atkinson won the Whitbread prize after many excellent reviews. The consistent praise heaped upon the interviewer Tony Parker has not yet turned him into a household name. Vincenzi sells more books than many writers. And Chang-rae Lee, whose novel *Native Speaker* I reviewed for this paper and chose, along with Atkinson's, as one of the two most outstanding books I had reviewed in 1995, re*mains almost unheard of.*

Outlaw hero or bank-robbing thug, there is less to a famous desperado than this thick novel, says **Erica Wagner**

Pretty Boy runs to fat

BIG-TIME crime ain't what it used to be. Back in the Depression, when Quentin Tarantino's mother was barely a gleam in *her* mother's eye, crooks knew how to do things right. They respected their elders: they loved their wives: they avoided using their tommy-guns if at all possible: and when things did not go quite the way they planned, did they swear? No, sir. They said "applesauce".

Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd was one such criminal, an Oklahoma bank robber who featured on J. Edgar Hoover's "Ten Most Wanted" list. He terrorised and fascinated the Western states until his death, at the hands of Hoover's G-men, in 1934.

Like John Dillinger and Bonnie and Clyde, he has entered American legend; this novel, an expansion of a screenplay written by the authors for Warner Brothers in 1993, tells his story.

But despite the book's size and heft, there is not much of a story to tell. Floyd, handsome and charming as his moniker suggests, falls into a life of crime because he is bored and a little greedy, and finds that once he has started, it is hard to stop. Despite

■ PRETTY BOY FLOYD
By Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana
Orion, £16.99

his affection for his young wife Ruby and their son Dempsey, he takes up with various women of dubious morals, including the splendidly named Whizbang Red — the very image of the Whore with a Heart of Gold.

As such, she cannot help being a cliché — a far worse evil than prostitution as far as novels are concerned — and sadly she is only one of many. This is disappointing, because McMurty, writing alone, has otherwise proved himself adept at avoiding such bunkum, despite dealing with such easily hackneyed subjects as cowboys and Indians. But Floyd's cowboy accomplice, George Birdwell, seems straight out of a spaghetti western.

So Floyd robs some banks; he runs *out of money;* he robs again. He goes back to Ruby; he takes up with Whizbang or Beulah; and so on and so forth to the inevitable bullet-riddled end.

The book's ramblings are not displeasing: it is perfectly enjoyable and I cried at the end. But I would have wished, *too, for a greater* structure to have been imposed on Floyd's aimless life. The authors tell us, in their "collaborators' note" that for each day's work "L. M." provided a sketchy five pages, which "D. O." padded out into ten. You cannot help but imagine the streamlined novel we might have *had without that quotidian* expansion.

Too white a shade of pale

Walter Ellis on a bizarre true story of black race prejudice

MARSHA HUNT is best remembered in Britain for her singing career in the 1960s and 1970s and for the fact that Mick Jagger is the father of her daughter, Karis. Later, she became an accomplished actress and, more recently, a novelist. It was in the spring of 1991 that she discovered, via a telephone call from an American cousin, that her grandmother, Ernestine, whom she had long assumed to be dead, was in fact living in a home in Memphis, Tennessee.

Hunt: shocking account

Ernestine, now aged 98, had been diagnosed as "mentally unstable" in 1925 and confined for more than half a century in the Western State Hospital, Tennessee. Her husband, Blair, was a headmaster, a minister of religion and a pillar of his local community. But for all that she was young and pretty, a college graduate and the mother of his three sons, she appears to have been *dumped without ceremony.*

What shocks in this account

■ REPOSSESSING ERNESTINE
By Marsha Hunt
HarperCollins, £15.99

of Ernestine's rediscovery is not so much the fact that a young woman, with so much to give, was condemned to life imprisonment without cause, but that throughout her long life it has been her pale skin that has most entrapped her.

Her own mother had been *half* German-Jewish, and this meant that neither whites nor blacks fully accepted her as one of their own. Ernestine, with her blonde hair and blue eyes, obviously attracted Blair and had borne him three sons by the time she was 21. Soon after, though, she was committed and the Reverend settled down with a darker second wife.

Hunt repeats over and over her opinion that, since slavery, negro class culture has always been defined by skin colour and hair: the lighter the skin and the straighter the hair, the better. "If you're light, you're right; if you're brown, you'll get around; but if you're black, step back" went the rhyme. Ernestine's tragedy was that she had apparently gone a step too far and was no longer recognised as black.

Hunt has since rescued her and found a home for her close to relatives in Boston. But she cannot unmake the past. "What makes people avoid death after they cease to be interested in life?" she asks.

She does not come up with the answer.

Yves Montand delivers the Gallic shrug so vital to the game of *pétanque* — from *The Taste of Provence* by Martine Bouchet and Prosper Assouline (Editions Assouline, £35)

Looking for Ms Write

CAROLINE UPCHER has worked in the film industry, spent 20 years in publishing *and once achieved an oblique* celebrity as the ghost writer of Naomi Campbell's *Swan. Falling for Mr Wrong* is her first novel under her own name and, for subject matter, she has stuck close to home.

■ FALLING FOR MR WRONG
By Caroline Upcher
Orion, £9.99

Polly de Soto, a literary agent, has just been deserted by her husband, Johnny, a film producer. So she is single once again, just like her ghastly best friend, Joan, a showbiz journalist, and her nymphomaniac stepdaughter, Luana, a casting agent. Meanwhile, her favourite client, Zoe, is having trouble with the supermodel whose novel she is ghostwriting. Use what you know, is Upcher's philosophy.

Polly struggles to get her own agency off the ground and begins the search for Mr Right, all within the small triangle of Notting Hill, Soho and South Kensington. But once she has sold the screen rights of a client's novel to her former husband, everyone decamps to the South of France for the shoot. The film — *Mr Wrong* — concerns a playboy-*cum-serial killer; its star is one* Hector O'Neill, a delicious hunk with a dirt-poor Irish background. And the script becomes a play-within-a-play *as he, metaphorically, slays* all the women in the novel.

As one might expect, this story comes professionally packaged. What is disappointing is the banality of its ideas and, by the end, the dreariness of its setting.

Polly's affair with Hector on the Côte d'Azur may be average fantasy stuff of servants, swimming-pools and steamy sex but, hell, at least it is escapism. And after two-thirds of a novel set in the lower divisions of literary London, we are gasping for it.

GILL HORNBY

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Sir Robin Renwick on the first free elections in South Africa: Roger Scruton on Conor Cruise O'Brien: Roy Foster on Ireland's military history: plus Alain Jolis's memoirs *and Ismail Kadare*

Tease before bedtime

■ DANCE WITH ME
By Louise Doughty
Touchstone, £9.99

BET AND Iris live parallel lives and, it becomes gradually and shudderingly apparent, inhabit parallel universes as well. In this tricksy, odd and very funny novel, it is hard to tell what is real and what is virtual reality but it does not *matter much.* Delivering up solid facts is not Louise Doughty's style: she is a player of slippery, literary games and a superb tease.

Bet inherits a house and a fortune from a recent lover, Peter, killed in a car crash. Sharp, knowing and sassy, she soon realises that there is something murky about the arrangement and does some sleuthing into Peter's affairs, in both senses of the word.

Meanwhile, Iris, one of the many women whom Peter has chewed up and spat out, sits moodily at her computer in a terrifyingly decrepit office block, trying to come to terms with loneliness, a broken heart and shadowy figures slithering along the corridors.

Both women have a lot to say about sex and the single girl. Bet is insouciantly promiscuous — a shrewd anti-romantic, who regards men as some amusing form of lowlife. When one of her lovers indicates that he feels nothing for her, she reports crisply "this is something of a blow to my ego because I find it utterly unreasonable that any man should not fall hysterically in love with me. However, if he was hysterically in love with me, I would be completely horrified because he is shorter than me and not a very nice person." Yet in spite of her ironic detachment, she believes that "you must never forget for one minute how many reasons there are for a man — any man — to hate you".

Iris is as self-aware as Bet, "in complete control of her delusions", but not nearly so *up on sexual etiquette. She is* bewildered when men behave badly. "They ask you to have sex with them but they don't want to. Or they want to but they want you *not* to want to."

The fates of these two enmesh and twist eerily together. Surroundings become increasingly scary: ghosts are seen, or imagined; people are raised from the dead. Sometimes, the gruesome pranks that Doughty delights in can seem a bit too heady but her observations on women's lives are breathtakingly original.

PENNY PERRICK

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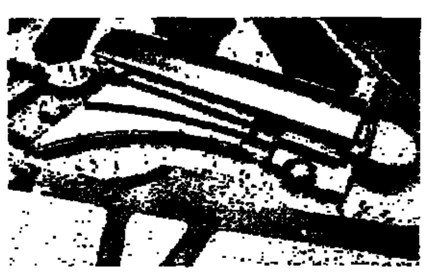

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2	CROSS CHANNEL **Julian Barnes** *(Cape)*	£10.99	1	5
3	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE **Daniel Goleman** *(Bloomsbury)*	£16.99	9	4
4	DELIA SMITH'S WINTER COLLECTION **Delia Smith** *(BBC)*	£15.99	2	17
5	FOODS THAT HARM, FOODS THAT HEAL *(Readers Digest)*	£25.95	0	1
6	MAXWELL: THE FINAL VERDICT **Tom Bower** *(HarperCollins)*	£16.99	0	1
7	A WOMAN'S PLACE **Edwina Currie** *(Hodder)*	£12.99	0	1
8	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£16.99	0	29
9	THE CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY *(OUP)*	£14.99	0	5
10	X-FILES BOOK OF THE UNEXPLAINED Vol 1 **Jane Goldman** *(Simon & Schuster)*	£15.99	3	13

PAPERBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	THE RAINMAKER **John Grisham** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	2	2
2	TRAINSPOTTING **Irvine Welsh** *(Minerva)*	£6.99	5	24
3	THE STATE WE'RE IN **Will Hutton** *(Vintage)*	£7.99	3	6
4	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM **Kate Atkinson** *(Black Swan)*	£5.99	4	5
5	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS **David Guterson** *(Bloomsbury)*	£5.99	1	21
6	LADDER OF YEARS **Anne Tyler** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	0	1
7	REGENERATION **Pat Barker** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	6	13
8	ACID HOUSE **Irvine Welsh** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	18	13
9	FREE TO TRADE **Michael Ridpath** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	8	5
10	THE JUROR **George Dawes Green** *(Bantam)*	£5.99	7	6
11	SOPHIE'S WORLD GREEK PHILOSOPHERS **Jostein Gaarder & Paulette Moller** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	4
12	THE EYE IN THE DOOR **Pat Barker** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	10	12
13	STAR WARS X-WING: ROGUE SQUADRON BOOK 1 **Michael Stockpole** *(Bantam)*	£4.99	0	1
14	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW **Peter Hoeg** *(Flamingo)*	£5.99	11	53
15	A GUIDE TO HAPPINESS **Epicurus** *(Penguin)*	£0.60	19	5
16	THE HIGHWAY CODE *(HMSO)*	£0.99	0	3
17	A CELESTINE PROPHECY **James Redfield** *(Bantam)*	£7.99	12	13
18	COMPLETE FLAT STOMACH PLAN **Rosemary Conley** *(Arrow)*	£4.99	17	2
19	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£7.99	9	17
20	BORROWED TIME **Robert Goddard** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	14	6

Any book from this list can be ordered from Dillons Mail Order Tel: 0171 636 1577 Fax: 0171 580 7680 DILLONS

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Dream machine

MR SINGH is a bad-tempered Nairobi garage owner who longs to build his own Rolls-Royce. He is plagued by Kamau, an accident-prone country lad who longs to work *for Mr Singh* and who points out with beautiful, infuriating logic that a car not made by the "Rolls-Royce maker" cannot be a Rolls-Royce. Their adventures are told by Sylvia Sherry in **Elephants Have Right of Way** (Jonathan Cape, £9.99), *with superb illustrations* by Quentin Blake.

On a hilarious journey into the bush for some mythical spare parts, both Mr Singh and Kamau unexpectedly realise their dreams. Sherry has captured the magic of a well-*knit story, rhythmical* and agreeably repetitive, yet challenging the mind and vocabulary of the more confident reader, aged nine or over.

Charlotte Voake's **Mr Davies and the Baby** (Walker Books, £8.99) also has a fresh feel. *Mr Davies is the kind of* horrid little dog that frightens your baby out of its wits by yapping furiously from behind a garden gate. He slips out, chases bikes and terrorises ducks. But Voake's attractive drawings and calligraphic text turn *Mr Davies* into a *hero* and would persuade the crossest mum to feel sympathy for him. For reading to under fives.

My six-year-old complains that I read him too many miserable books about death, so here are some happy picture books for under sevens. Jill Rattray's **The King Who Lost His Crown** (Magi, £7.99) and Margaret Greaves's **Tattercoats** (Frances Lincoln, £4.99) are both cheerfully illustrated fairy-tales, unscarred by the self-conscious political correctness that some authors mistake for wit.

Ivan Bates has created strong, page-filling illustrations for Sam McBratney's **The Dark at the Top of the Stairs** (Walker, £8.99), in which a family of mice learn that home is the safest place, and it is a delight to re-encounter little Ellen and her emotional toy penguin in Clara Vulliamy's **Ellen and Penguin and the New Baby** (Walker, £8.99). With a new baby in the house, Ellen's penguin cannot sleep at night, "so Ellen had to bring him downstairs and walk round and round with him, patting his back". Familiar?

SARAH JOHNSON

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Anne Tyler: delicately humorous and forgiving

■ THE LADDER OF YEARS
By Anne Tyler
Vintage, £5.99

DELIA GRINSTEAD, doctor's wife and mother of three, has dwelt all her life in the same rambling house in Baltimore. An unassuming friendly person, she is taken for granted by her uncommunicative husband and increasingly remote adolescent children. She has nursed her father through his terminal illness six months earlier, and is grieving still, though not even her two sisters seem to realise how much.

Delia feels herself growing "wavery around the edges", and escapes into romantic novels in which raven-haired heroines are rescued from lives of drudgery by aristocrats with flashing eyes. But then on the family's annual vacation to the ocean she abandons her relatives and, wearing only her swimsuit, just keeps walking. Anne Tyler's thirteenth novel traces the consequences of her vertiginous act.

As always Tyler's sympathetically observed characters are ordinary people, who struggle with the wounds of everyday insensitivity, parents watching their children grow up and away, and underpinning all the fearful prospect of old age. At the heart of *The Ladder of Years* stands the Senior City apartment block, each floor representing another step in inevitable decline. It could be depressing, but Tyler's touch, so delicately humorous and forgiving, makes this a deeply enjoyable book.

■ LETTERS TO A YOUNG POLITICIAN
By Alistair McAlpine
Faber, £6.99

PRESENTED as a work of profound cynicism by a former Thatcher devotee, this book turns out to have a soggy soft centre. The author just about keeps his balance while dispensing worldly advice to a young nephew, who improbably ends up as Prime Minister. But the book's sub-plot — the disillusioned uncle's efforts to rescue (Gladstone-style) an adopted niece from a life on the streets — finally topples the whole thing over into absurdity. Lord McAlpine may salve his own guilt, provoked by all those years of Conservative party fund-raising, but he would have done better to remember his heroine's own stern line about the parable of the Good Samaritan.

■ A MAP OF THE WORLD
By Jane Hamilton
Black Swan, £6.99

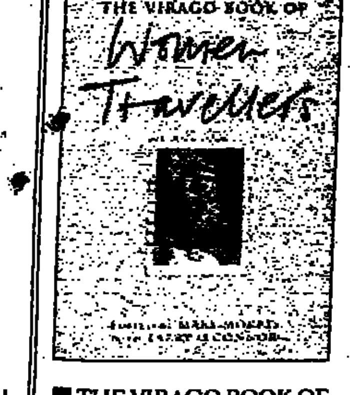
ALICE and Howard Goodwin are seen as unconventional outsiders in the small Midwestern town of Prairie Centre. They've learned to live with this vague but ever-present feeling of hostility, until a fearful accident on their farm precipitates an all-out witch-hunt. This gripping novel is a portrait of a marriage, and of a friendship between two women which is put to the severest imaginable test. It is about grief and guilt and loss, and it moves with all the inevitability of a Greek tragedy to a cathartic ending.

■ FIVE MINUTES IN HEAVEN
By Lisa Alther
Penguin, £6.99

FIVE minutes in heaven is the kissing game Jude played passing from childhood to adolescence in America's sleepy South, and it seems that all Jude's loves last five minutes before dying. First her mother, then her special friends Molly and Sandy, one in a teenage car crash, the other beaten to death in 1960s New York. Finally she falls in love with intoxicating, destructive Anna, only to watch her waste away, before realising that her own life must go on. A striking picture of the evolution of a personality.

■ WHOM GODS DESTROY
By Ruth Padel
Princeton, £9.95

EDVARD MUNCH'S *The Scream*, which appears on the cover of Padel's book reflects the pervasive ideas and influence of Greek perceptions of madness in modern European art and literature. Padel traces the evolution of the wandering and isolated figure, juxtaposed with a dark landscape, as an image of 20th-century madness which would have been familiar to the Greeks. Through a vast gallery of characters, from Io, Orestes and Lear to Malvolio and Kurtz, Padel reveals the derivation of our perceptions of



■ THE VIRAGO BOOK OF WOMEN TRAVELLERS
Edited by Mary Morris with Larry O'Connor
Virago, £8.99

ALTHOUGH this well-constructed book seems to prove that women throughout history have travelled more safely than the young female traveller does today, its eye-opening accounts from 1600 to the present show venturing abroad hasn't always been plain sailing. Isabelle Eberhardt and Sarah Hobson journeyed through Africa and Persia disguised as men; Box-Car Bertha rode freight trains with female hoboes selling sex for dimes. As fascinating for its eccentric social anecdotes as its geographical observations, this is a witty and a poignant collection.

■ TOMORROW IS ANOTHER COUNTRY
By Allister Sparks
Mandarin, £6.99

SPARKS, a South African journalist, tells the inside story of his country's "negotiated revolution" which dismantled apartheid. It clarifies the web of political factions from Terreblanche's AWB to the Communist Party. Sparks charts the talks that led to democratic elections after he traces the secret contacts made with Nelson Mandela long before his release in 1990. Alongside his own eyewitness accounts of violence, the author quotes from revealing interviews with Mandela and other figureheads. That said, such detailed coverage of so many clandestine meetings can be dry reading.

Philippa Ingram, Anthony Howard, Hazel Leslie, Fiona Hook, Amanda Loose, Glyn Brown, Kate Bassett

Torched by the fires of the rising sun

The rape of Nanking by the Japanese in 1937 is the background for a dense and absorbing novel, **Frances Donnelly** says

THIS is a dark, dense, complicated account of the rise of Japan's military state until its eclipse at the end of the Second World War. This extraordinary novel's centrepiece is the rape of Nanking in 1937, where, having declared war against China, Japan inflicted six weeks of horrendous retribution on Chiang Kai-shek's new Chinese capital.

This gruesome episode is witnessed through the eyes of a group of foreigners trapped in the city, among them the Russian emigrée Nadya, Tilik Dayal, an Indian Nationalist, Kenjiro, a liberal Japanese diplomat, and a British journalist called Donald Addison.

This might not seem a story likely to engage the heart or prompt a speedy turning of pages. But what makes this book so completely absorbing is Meira Chand's own scrupulous and unflinching analysis of the Japanese character. She has lived in Japan since 1962, and her book is a meditation on what it was to be Japanese in the first half of the century. Obedience was given unquestioningly to the emperor and the goal was the domination first of southeast Asia, then the world.

■ A CHOICE OF EVILS
By Meira Chand
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.99

The diplomat, Kenjiro, appalled at the application of these ideals in Nanking, tries to explain the Japanese character to the English journalist. "We are not a vicious people ... discipline, gentleness and harmony, these are our strengths. But our people are submissive, used to obeying authority without question. Actions are judged according to their conformity to a set norm." At the other end of the Japanese chain of command but equally uneasy, Akira, a farmer turned soldier, finally deserts, unable to justify what he is doing. Even so, he knows he can never return home as his lack of obedience will have brought disgrace on his family.

If there is one thing each character learns, it is that no matter how vast the scale of human suffering, each death is important. The Movietone news cameraman, Mariani, rebukes the English journalist for wasting film on an anonymous corpse in the river. They either have to be burnt black like chickens or dead in enormous quantities to qualify for his camera. Then Mariani himself is machine-gunned and dying. "This happened to me because I took no notice of death," he says. "The corpse I told you to ignore, he is important. He is like me, a small man with life and feelings."

Not an easy read, this is nevertheless a marvellously researched and impressively well-written novel.

With all passion misspent

■ MINGS KINGDOM
By Nicol Williamson
Hutchinson, £14.99

"OH HAPPINESS, enjoy'd but of few/And if possest, as soon decayed and done/As is the morning's silver melted dew/Against the golden splendour of the sun."

The author of this novel is an actor of prodigious thespian talents, while the hero of his narrative is similarly gifted and decorated with more of the obvious rewards than Shakespeare of similar age, and anyway prefers the poetry of Larkin, the life of New York or Paris. Thespians are selective readers, which is one of the things which make the hero emerge as a bit of a git.

The plot concerns an imperfect love affair which was perceived as perfect. The actor, Rick, falls in lust with Adrienne, who has a bottom which looks as if it were carved out of marble, achieved, possibly, by the perfect alibi of working out five times a week, Sunday included. The sex is initially tremendous, on account of the single fact that she is so good at stretching her legs "till ten to two", although conversation is not brilliant, even when she gets cramp. Hoping that marriage will preserve and encourage this already waning and fluctuating passion, wonderful Big Boy (her description) insists on a marriage which sulky Miss Muscle keeps secret and, by now, does not want anyway.

Bozo Rick forgets anything he ever knew about there being a tide in the affairs of men, while infantile Adrienne cannot stand conflict and turns instead to manipulation and Momma, who is the misdirected devil of the story. Rick is not a man who loves too much, merely one who loves without judgment. A blind fool — the everyman who thinks his prick has the percipience and vision of a periscope.

And there lies the pity of it; the man of talent and experience proving as gullible as any other; the last to know the truth which even his best friend will tell him. There is an awful suspense in watching this self-absorbed creature being taken over, wooing his bride with expensive private pleasures, only to find her dreadful entourage included at every turn, none of them unstoned.

Rick ought to have known that, for anyone but a luvvie, a woman with no other term of endearment than "sweetie" should have been his signal to run like hell. He does not; we watch, wanting to shake him, carried through to the final curtain by gruesome fascination and a lot of anecdotal padding of a highly entertaining kind. The playwright, in this case, is better than the players.

FRANCES HEGARTY

Say it with flowers: Ernst Haas's *Flowers: Cyclamens* Munich, 1981, from *The Art of the Flower*, edited by Hans-Michael Herzog (Edition Stemmle, £39.95), a lavish study of the tradition of the floral still life in paintings and photographs from the 17th century to the present day

Helen Stevenson is gripped by a thriller that questions the nature of perception

Blind eye of the beholder

MICHAEL BLOM wakes up in a clinic to discover he has been blinded. He was out shopping when a stray bullet flew through his occipital cortex, causing total and irreversible blindness. "One millimetre lower and you would have died instantaneously." He is warned that he is likely to suffer from Anton's Syndrome, a condition in which the blind man believes, despite proof to the contrary, that he can see.

It is the visual equivalent of feeling the ground beneath your feet when you have lost both legs or squeezing someone's hand when you have lost an arm. As a physical condition, it is a dubious blessing. As a concept for a novel, it is breathtakingly clever, if hot to handle, for it raises point-blank questions about the nature of perception, the imagination and narration.

Rupert Thomson handles it with a literary intelligence which met almost every requirement I felt I could possibly have of a novel. An illusion no doubt, but one which afforded two apparently contradictory pleasures: the reader could believe blindly in the writer's acrobatic fabulations and at the same time admire the visible traps and wires by means of which they were simulated.

■ THE INSULT
By Rupert Thomson
Bloomsbury, £10.99

Michael is convinced that a small metal plate which has been inserted into his brain is allowing Dr Visser, his consultant at the eye hospital, to control him. The twist to Michael's condition is that he can only see — or is only able to believe that he can see — at night. His affair with Nina, a stripper whom he meets in a bar, is conducted by night. He switches the lights off, the better to be able to see her. "It was dark in the bedroom. I watched her lift her blouse over her head."

Back out on the street in the morning, he is blind again. "Outside it was almost light. The air was so cold, I could feel the shape of my lungs when I breathed in."

Nina disappears and as her lover is the last person to see her alive, Michael is both desperate to find her and a suspect in the eyes of the police. For a blind man, clues have to be verbal. An elderly female relative, whose narrative takes up most of the second half of the book, tells him the story of Nina's birth and reveals the identity of her abductor.

Whether clues of language are any more reliable than visual clues gives pause for thought in this stunningly clever thriller, through which runs a disturbing note of anguished humour that both belies and enhances the rare seriousness of the novel.

Feisty, fruity and dead funny

STEPHANIE PLUM is a fugitive apprehension agent, also known as a bail-bond bounty-hunter, which means she tracks down defendants who have not surrendered to their bail and delivers them to justice for a percentage of the bond money. She is one of the funniest, most original and delightful recent entrants into the crime-busting sisterhood.

Apart from her job, she is probably unique in crime fiction in living in Trenton, New Jersey, a city of spectacular nothingness. Her mother's overriding preoccupation is finding Stephanie a husband, for which purpose a stream of unmitigated jerks, nerds and losers are invited to the perpetually replete family table.

■ TWO FOR THE DOUGH
By Janet Evanovich
Hamish Hamilton, £12.50

Stephanie, by contrast, has a reluctant lifetime passion, occasionally acted on, for local copper Joe Morelli ever since he did something nice to her behind his father's garage when she was six and he eight.

She also has a grandmother who spends her time viewing dead bodies in funeral parlours to compare the artistic quality of their respective embalming techniques.

In *Two for the Dough*, Evanovich's second Plum novel, the quarry is a recently discharged soldier charged with shooting his former best friend. The search becomes enmeshed with the disappearance of 24 cheap, empty coffins from Granny's favourite undertakers; fingers and other anatomical parts are snatched from recently deceased bodies and start turning up in unusual places.

Stephanie Plum is a joy: self-deprecating, wise-cracking, overweight, raunchy, accident-prone and ill-suited to her job or to anything else she might do in Trenton, New Jersey. She perseveres with the help of a lot of Woody Allenish one-liners and some ambivalent thoughts about the macho and sexist Morelli.

Plum does not take herself or her predicaments too seriously, which, after the often self-important and issues-obsessed novels featuring some of America's other female 'tecs, is a great relief.

Evanovich: delightful

MARCEL BERLINS

Run for your life, little boy

THE ONLY good thing to be said about a country where guns are commonplace and armed response belongs to a beat policeman's daily grind is that it makes for cracking thrillers. *Nathan's Run* is proof. John Gilstrap's debut novel is a heartstopper of a chase made for the movies.

A 12-year-old inmate in a juvenile penitentiary has murdered a guard and is on the run. But Nathan is not one more underclass oik out to trash the system and carve out an underworld living. He is a nice, respectable young fellow from an upper-middle-class background who, when he breaks into a home to hide, does the laundry and leaves an apologetic "thank you" note before stealing the BMW.

What gives the plot its mounting tension is the rapport between Nathan and a black Washington DC "rude radio" talk hostess who calls herself "the Bitch". Like a good child of the media age, Nathan feels obliged to join in the live phone-in about himself. On air he claims that everything he has done has been in self-defence because of a plot to kill him.

■ NATHAN'S RUN
By John Gilstrap
Little, Brown, £12.99

The only flaw in the plot is that it takes the police so long to discover the motive. Meanwhile, as well as the posses of gun-toting deputies eager to nail this underage cop-killer, a sadistic Mafia hit man has Nathan's name on a contract. With his life in jeopardy and his credibility being judged by a nationwide radio audience, Nathan's calls to the Bitch provide him with his only public platform but also risk giving away his whereabouts.

Gilstrap massages the tension masterfully, slipping easily inside the mind of a 12-year-old, poised on that delicate, difficult threshold between childhood and adolescence. Nathan is almost excited by finding a bra in a drawer while rummaging in one of his hideaways but is still annoyed to find no toys in the house. His best moment is when the one friend he meets on the run gives him a plastic X-men figure as a good-luck charm.

Much of the violence is specifically American, in particular the electrifying climax, but the scenario could easily be transferred to a British context, while the problems of shifting the assumption of blame are universal. The only thing wrong with *Nathan's Run* is that you will find yourself racing through it.

PETER MILLAR

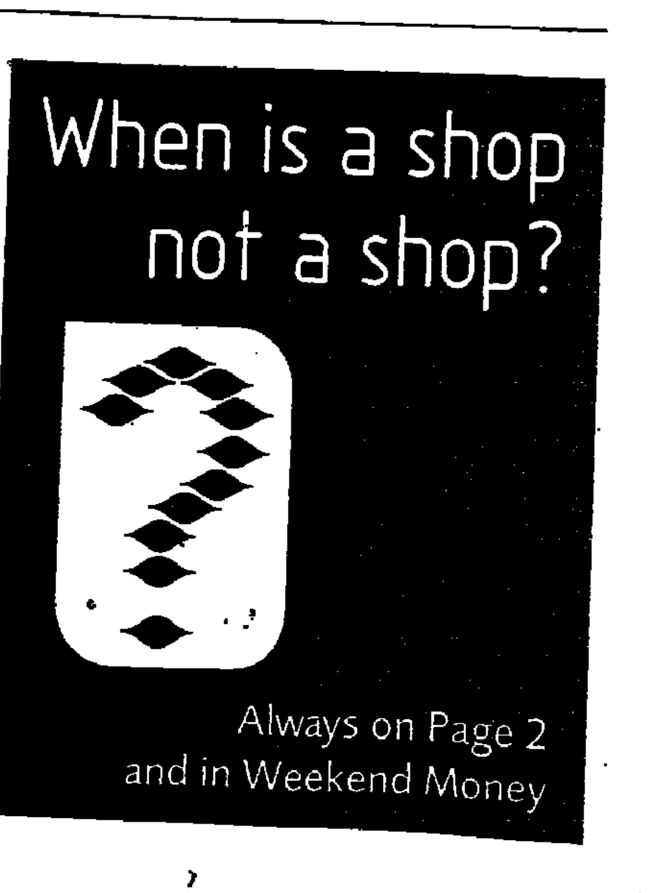
Rushdie wins at last

SALMAN RUSHDIE beat a shortlist which also included Martin Amis, Pat Barker, Louis de Bernières and Minette Walters last week to become Author of the Year in the annual British Book Awards organised by *Publishing News*.

At the book trade's "Oscar" night, *Delia Smith's Winter Collection* was named Book of the Year.

Other awards included:

Publisher: Transworld
Marketing Campaign: The Penguin 60s
Children's Book: *The Hutchinson Treasury of Children's Literature* (edited by Alison Sage)
Illustrated Book: *The River Café Cookbook.*


When is a shop not a shop?

Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

هكذا من الاصل

RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Lou Reed returns to *New York*; Brazil's favourite son; Obrecht's mesmerising Mass; Sawallisch goes wild

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ GABRIELLE
Give Me a Little More Time
Go Beat 850 467★★★

LITTLE has been heard musically of south-London soul-singer Gabrielle since she won the Best Newcomer award at the Brits in 1994.*Give Me a Little More Time* will change all that. Written by Gabrielle and her producers, the Boilerhouse Boys, it is a wonderful song steeped in the best traditions of the Motown and Stax sound.

Underpinned by a gently loping beat and a big, brassy horn riff, Gabrielle's performance perfectly captures the competing emotions of yearning and uncertainty as she stands on the brink of a new relationship. "You tried your best to convince me that you understand/And if I ever need someone to hold on to, you wanted to be the man," she sings, and there is no denying she is tempted by the offer. But still she pleads for a little more time to make up her mind.

Gabrielle: Stax tradition

The old-fashioned production might have sounded contrived were it not for the strength of the tune and the tremendous conviction of Gabrielle's delivery. In fact, if it were not a brand new song, one would be tempted to say that they simply do not make them like this any more.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ LOU REED
Set the Twilight Reeling
Warner Bros 9362-46159★★

RETURNING to active duty as if the ill-fated Velvet Underground reunion of 1993 had never happened, Lou Reed picks up the thread of his solo career without missing a beat on *Set the Twilight Reeling*.

Thankfully, he has pulled himself out of the morass of depression and despair which fuelled his last album, *Magic and Loss*. Instead, several songs revisit the scene of his greatest triumph, the *New York* album of 1989, although the scathing, world-weary tone of that classic is replaced here by a mood that is generally lighter and more upbeat.

"I'm a New York City man, blink your eyes and I'll be gone," he warns mischievously on *NYC Man*, using his deadpan drawl to sketch only the faintest outline of the tune, while delegating the detailed work to an untypically elaborate arrangement for horn section.

Reed, who will be 54 next month, still has a formidable stock of one-liners — "Nothing lasts forever, not even five minutes," he notes dryly on *Finish Line* — but his greatest strength remains his uncanny ability to conjure a song from the simplest of building blocks. In *HookyWooky*, he paints a rooftop picture of the city — "Looking at the chemical sky/All purple, blue and oranges, some pigeons flying by" — over a childishly simple, chugging riff that allows him a free rein to indulge his poetic ear for words.

The skin-and-bones production of numbers ranging from the jokey rocker *Egg Cream* to the earnest pseudo-soul of *Hang On to Your Emotions* further disguises the craft that goes into Reed's work, and even the more ambitious, sub-Hendrix pyrotechnics of *Rip Tide* tend to sound as if they have been rather casually knocked out.

He will need to make a more conspicuous effort if he is ever to produce another record as outstanding as *New York*, but this is fine for now.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ ANTONIO CARLOS JOBIM
The Man From Ipanema
Verve 525 880 (3 CDs)★★★

THE easiest way to honour Antonio Carlos Jobim would have been to throw together a selection of his greatest hits. All the obvious titles — *Desafinado, Agua de Beber* and *Wave* — find their way onto this memorial to the composer who died unexpectedly just over a year ago.

But just as Jobim created his own soundscape, straddling pop and jazz (and, in miniatures such as *Modinha* and *Soneto da Separação*, the light classics), this anthology also demonstrates how his compositions lent themselves to radically different settings.

So it is that on the third disc — subtitled *Side by Side* — we hear three versions of *Desafinado* back to back — the string-laden, easy-listening version arranged by Claus Ogerman, the definitive rendition performed with Stan Getz and João Gilberto and a magical encounter with Joe Henderson at Carnegie Hall, recorded months before Jobim's death. *Corcovado, Insensatez, Vivo Sohando* and, naturally, *The Girl from Ipanema* are similarly recycled.

It says much for the subtlety of the apparently uncomplicated melodies that they easily withstand such close scrutiny. And though the instrumentals that make up the second disc — most of them dating from the early 1960s — tend to be a little bland, the vocal numbers on the opening disc are pure treasure trove. While everyone will be familiar with Astrud Gilberto's impersonal yet oddly effective delivery, it is Elis Regina's more supple voice that sounds more and more like the perfect medium, the true voice of Brazil.

Jobim: own soundscape

CHORAL

Hilary Finch

■ JACOB OBRECHT
Missa Maria Zart
Tallis Scholars/Phillips
Gimell CDGIM 032★★★

IF YOU have 70 minutes this weekend, prepare to put them aside to do nothing but listen, without distraction, to one of the longest, most mesmerising settings of the Mass ever written. Jacob Obrecht worked as a composer in Flanders in the last years of the 15th century. Then, on his way to the court in Ferrara (where, within a matter of weeks, he was to die of the plague), he wrote this all-absorbing Mass, based on a Tyrolean hymn melody, *Tender Mary, rose without thorn*. It is thought to be his swansong, and the Tallis Scholars honour both Obrecht's memory and the catalogue with this fine recording.

To enter Obrecht's sound world is to immerse yourself in an unique flow and counterflow of melody — fragmented, repeated, spun into endless sequences, stretched out, contracted and positively saturating all the voice parts. Rhythmic stability and melodic vitality co-exist in hypnotic balance and are realised superbly in the firm yet supple textures of the Tallis Scholars' four tenors, two basses and two sopranos, artfully balanced and paced by Peter Phillips.

■ HEINRICH SCHÜTZ
Geistliche Chormusik
Collegium Vocale/
Herreweghe
Harmonia Mundi
HMC 901534★★★

POVERTY and famine were rife and the Dresden court chapel was reduced to rubble. As German musicians, artists and writers searched for their response in the last year of the Thirty Years War, Heinrich Schütz composed a set of "small and simple works" setting extracts from Luther's Biblical texts in the supple, declamatory style he had learnt from Gabrieli in Venice. The *Kleine geistliche Konzerte* of 1636-39 remain some of the most spare and eloquent examples of the sacred vocal music of that time, and half a dozen of them are dropped, jewel-like, into this recording of Schütz's later motets from the *Geistliche Chormusik*.

So, in among the light-filled contrapuntal singing of the Collegium Vocale appears a tender, imprecatory duet, *Create in me a clean heart*, sung by soprano Agnès Mellon and tenor Mark Padmore: and the drowsy descent of sleep creeps through the voices of Padmore and bass Peter Kooy. There is no dearth of recordings of both these collections: but few offer such eloquent selection and performance as this one.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ RUTH ANN SWENSON
Coloratura Arias from the Golden Age
London Philharmonic
Orchestra/Rescigno
EMI CDC 7 54827 2★★

RUTH ANN SWENSON'S recital disc is issued to coincide with her debut at Covent Garden on Monday in the title role of *Semele*. But there is no Handel here. EMI's Golden Age is strictly 19th century and several of the numbers are those Joan Sutherland recorded 35 years ago under the title *The Art of the Prima Donna*, a set which spurred her international reputation.

Swenson's soprano is already heavier than Sutherland's was then, and it shows in a number such as Juliet's Waltz Song from Gounod's treatment of the lovers of Verona. There is a lack of girlish dazzle. But Swenson has first-class technique and shares with Sutherland the ability to end a vocal firework display with an extra large rocket. Try the Donizetti numbers from *Lucia* and *Linda di Chamounix*.

The Bellini arias, from *Puritani* and *Sonnambula*, are accomplished but chill. Elvira's plea for hope, or failing that, death, needs more emotion, although the following cabaletta is full of energetic display. Hope seems the more likely option.

Swenson: vocal fireworks

The best group, three extensive Meyerbeer display pieces, is saved until last. Here Swenson really shows her prowess and her control. The mini Meyerbeer revival of 20 years ago seems to have petered out. But if anyone is ready to foot the production costs his operas normally entail, then there is no need to look beyond Swenson for the soprano lead. Nicola Rescigno, a conductor once much favoured by Callas, provides solid accompaniment.

☐ GRAZIELLA SCIUTTI
The Early Years
Various orchestras
Philips 442 750-2★★

BOTH the Bellini numbers on the Swenson disc are also on the Philips compilation of recordings made by Graziella Sciutti in her late twenties. Sciutti's problem was that at the very same time Callas was beginning to give an entirely new dimension to Bellini. By comparison she sounds superficial.

She was much happier with sparkier ladies who did not go mad or start sleepwalking at the first setback. Sciutti was a Glyndebourne pet in the 1950s mainly for her Mozart performances and for *Così* in particular. Despina's two arias are here, very fresh and sharply pointed. So is Zerlina, with George London as a gruff Giovanni. Sciutti is not up to Semiramide's grand *Bel raggio*, but when she turns from Rossini to Donizetti, she shows what a vivacious and incisive interpreter she was.

A totally different side is shown in songs by Fauré, Debussy and Ravel. Philips apologises for the sound quality here. It would have done better to have begged pardon for the indifferent background article which manages to comment on a number of arias not included on the disc.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ STOKOWSKI TRANSCRIPTIONS
Philadelphia Orchestra/
Sawallisch
EMI CDC 5 55592 2★★

STOKOWSKI'S orchestral transcriptions have about as much to do with their originals as does, say, *Kiss me, Kate* with *The Taming of the Shrew*. But that is not to deny that they are great fun.

César Franck's *Panis Angelicus* seems more saccharine than ever, while Chopin's modest Prelude in E Minor is injected with enough pathos to fill a Puccini opera. Debussy's *Clair de lune* is all rippling harps and Mantovani strings, but *La cathédrale engloutie* has a more sensational sound picture than you would ever have thought possible under water.

The Bach arrangements (*Sheep may safely graze, Wachet auf* and *Ein feste Burg*) have little perceptible connection with the Kantor of Leipzig, but the music (whoever's it is) sounds absolutely ravishing dressed in Stokowski's opulent garb.

The infamous Toccata and Fugue in D Minor is the most impossibly overblown of the lot. The Philadelphia Orchestra (Stokowski's own), now under Wolfgang Sawallisch — normally a man of impeccable taste and discretion — revels in these vulgar, lurid histrionics as to the manner born.

Sawallisch: histrionics

☐ BRUCKNER
Symphony No 1 in C Minor
Chicago Symphony
Orchestra/ Solti
Decca 448 898-2★★

BRUCKNER'S Symphony No 1 opens not with the mysterious string tremolos familiar from his later works in the genre but with a marching tune more akin to Mahler. In the mid-1860s, Mahler's symphonies were unwritten, and Beethoven's Ninth (the source of the tremolos) was not heard by Bruckner until 1866. The First Symphony was by that time complete and the chief influence, if any, would have to be Wagner, in particular *Tristan*, which Bruckner had just heard.

Certain gestures of vintage Bruckner are foreshadowed here — the noble, arching melody of the Adagio, the athletic Scherzo — and it *is* of more than academic interest to hear the piece in as committed a reading as this by Solti and the Chicago Symphony.

The total timing is not given on the back of the disc, presumably in the hope that we would not realise that at less than 47 minutes it *is* somewhat short measure. The version used is the original Linz one of 1865-66 — a wise decision, as Bruckner's later tinkering was misconceived.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

NEW ON VIDEO: Boorman lost in the jungle; digital stew from the delicatessen; Steve Martin battles fate

On the run: John Boorman's jungle adventure *Beyond Rangoon*, starring Patricia Arquette, is set against the background of the pro-democracy struggle in Burma

■ BEYOND RANGOON
Columbia TriStar, 12, 1995

JOHN BOORMAN likes pitting outsiders against raw nature, but Patricia Arquette's trek through the Burmese jungle brings no special magic or touch of myth. She is out of her depth as an American tourist stirred by the pro-democracy movement who flees from the military with a dissident professor. The heat of the chase, by raft and by truck, generates some excitement: but you expect more from Boorman. Available to rent.

■ THE CITY OF LOST CHILDREN
Entertainment, 15, 1995

JEUNET and Caro, the *Delicatessen* duo, return with a far bigger budget and an indigestible fantasy crammed with digital effects. If you hack a path through the trickery, you may find a plot: it hinges on the attempt by Ron Perlman's circus strongman to rescue a child kidnapped for the pleasure of an evil genius who lives on an oil rig. But the story never stirs emotions or drives the film forward; you must sink or swim with the bizarre images, set in a landscape that blends Dickens, Jules Verne and David Lynch. Available to rent.

■ COTTAGE TO LET
Rank Collection, U, 1941

SO WHO is the Nazi agent lurking on Leslie Banks's Scottish estate? Unlikely to be the Cockney evacuee played by 16-year-old George Cole; but what about Alastair Sim's eccentric snooper, the cook, the butler, or even John Mills's RAF chappie, who parachuted into the loch? Anthony Asquith's version of a 1940 stage success follows the Hitchcock formula but adds a ragged, zany charm all of its own.

■ DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE
Buena Vista, 15, 1995

DETECTIVE Bruce Willis has another bad day. First the Bonwit Teller department store blows up. Then the battle rages all round New York, from Harlem to Wall Street, in tunnels, banks, subways and primary schools. The man responsible is Jeremy Irons, giving a pantomime performance as a terrorist prankster. Samuel L. Jackson exerts stronger appeal as a Harlem shopkeeper who becomes Willis's sidekick, though their bantering scenes belong in a different film. Plenty of action but no dramatic focus. Available to rent.

■ FOREVER ENGLAND
Rank Collection, PG, 1935

JOHN MILLS found his first major film role as the sailor lad born out of wedlock because his parents came from different classes. But breeding will out, especially when you are fighting the Hun in the First World War. Dated but stirring stuff, based on C. S. Forester's novel *Brown on Resolution*; the studio discounted that title because it sounded too much like a textbook. Location work injects a touch of realism; and the Admiralty thought well enough of the project to lend the film-makers real battleships and 270 sailors.

■ A SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE
Buena Vista, PG, 1994

WRITER-producer-star Steve Martin takes the plot of *Silas Marner* and weaves it into an ambitious dramatic comedy about babies lost and found and a miser's redemption. The mix does not really work, but odd scenes are endearing; and in his first American venture, British director Gillies Mackinnon acquits himself well. With Gabriel Byrne and Catherine O'Hara. Available to rent.

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LADIES

ADVENTUROUS, attractive American (NY), slim, fit, black female in London until summer. Loves music (Bach, jazz, folk, blues), books (classic, mysteries, poetry), sport (tennis, skiing, walks, cycling), good food, wine. Seeking single male, 30-40 for fun and whatever. Please Reply to Box No 3816

ADVENTUROUS mountain climbing Moslem lady, university lecturer, medical profession, attractive, slim, 5'3", 40, loves outdoor life, squash, theatre, and fast cars WLTM like minded fit professional, successful, caring, 40+ N/S male, preferably similar background, culture no bar, for genuine life long relationship & good quality life. Must enclose photo. Please Reply to Box No 3846

ACTION-Results-Satisfaction. You get them all at Close Encounters 0800 141 141.

ACTIVE educated widow, youthful mid 60's, German born, 5'4", fit, warm & caring, good cook living in SE WLTM successful, cultured gentleman interested in music, current affairs, the arts, gardens, historical places in towns & countryside, travel. For possible relationship. Please Reply to Box No 3640

AMERICAN, London-based woman, 40's, likes walking, climbing, mountains and wild places, classical music, literature would like to meet sensitive, gentle man to share interests. Reply to Box No 3854

ALLURING South Coast classy blonde seeks single emotionally stable public school diamond with own business who wants to share his champagne life style with long term relationship in mind (40's). Please Reply with photo to Box No 2663

AN attractive cosmopolitan blue eyed blonde with style, intelligence and a GSOH seeks a strong considerate man of character and wit in his successful late forties who loves to live life to the full. I am creative, caring and love good food, entertaining and the Arts but have an adventurous streak keen on skiing, flying and other new experiences. Cotswolds/Oxon/Avon/Glos. Pls reply Box No 3804

ARTISTIC, busy, self-employed petite female, 36. Suddenly stopped and realised she was lonely. A capable, warm kindhearted man 30-40ish who likes animals and art would solve the problem. Box No 3789

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, 40s, blonde, loves walking, travel, children, arts. Ready for relationship with like-minded man - London. Box No 3787

ATTRACTIVE-Beautiful-Gorgeous. We have them all at Close Encounters 0800 141 141

ASIAN lady 31, attractive, WLTM successful positive man with strong character. London Photo please to Box No 3725

ATTRACTIVE slim lady, early forties, affectionate. Fun loving. No children. Seeks N/S sincere, caring man, with SOH. West London/S.East, to share friendship and romance. Box No 3604

A WINTER warmer! Film producer seeks tasty & talented genuine guy, 40's to share joie de vivre. London/SE. Photo plse to Box No 3685

BEAUTIFUL lady, fine cook, 39, home W9, seeks handsome man 34-47, home vicinity M40/M4 or central. Photo please reply to Box No 3653

BRUNETTE, attractive, GSOH, enjoys jazz/classical music, the arts seeks N/S professional man 40-60. Oxon/Berks. Please Reply to Box No 3732

AIMS for sophistication but covered in dog hair, lady 40ish, GSOH, enjoys arts, music, antiques. Easy going. Oxon/Bucks. Reply please with photo to Box No 3731

DISCRETION-Security-Honesty. We have them all at Close Encounters 0800 141 141.

CANADIAN professional lady, 49, slim, seeks clever and diligent gentleman 40-60 for medical-computer business in Canada. Reply to Box No 3252

CARING, affectionate, attractive professional lady 41, N/S WLTM successful, outgoing, professional/businessman with GSOH, love of countryside, wining, dining, travel, theatre and sport for TLC & mutually satisfying future. E Mids. Photo please to Box No 3716

CHARMING, lovely, elegant, single prof. Indian lady. Interested in travel, sports (plays squash), health, people, food, cinema, reading, laughter/fun etc. W.L.T.M. like-minded humorous genuine optimistic man between 37-45 for relationship/marriage. London. Photo & letter appreciated Box No 3781

CHARMING, elegant, tactile, well travelled, well read City lady, who is equally at home in the country WLTM a compatible mature gentleman of wit & warmth (50 - 66) with a view to a happy relationship. London/Southwest. Please Reply with photo to Box No 3711

CLASSICAL Beauty, excellent slim figure, well educated, warm and caring personality. WLTM presentable, successful professional, GSOH, 50+ to share varied interests. London/SE. Box No 3681

CONTINENTAL, very attractive, blond 50's enjoys golf, bridge, walks, travelling, eating out, theatre WLTM educated gentleman 45+ for companionship/happiness. Reply with photo to Box No 3698

DID you catch my 'ad' Feb 11 Style mag 'the Ex Files'. For the perfect divorcee in Northwest, will male equivalent (45-60) please reply to Box No 3717

CULTURED, independent, slim, attractive, grey eyed brunette, Jewish, seeks tall, professional gentleman 55-60. London/SE. Reply with photo Box No 3811

DID you leave Haberdashers, St. Paul's, Westminster or similar before 1969? If so, an attractive, successful, affectionate old Rodeanean fed up with wimps is waiting to hear from you! Please Reply to Box No 3680

FEMININE-Stylish-Confident. We have them all at Close Encounters 0800 141 141.

EX-BALLET dancer, attractive, early 40's feminine & affectionate WLTM successful unattached gentleman 40-55 for lasting relationship. Interests include theatre, music, travel & countryside. He must be caring & generous with GSOH. Sincerity & photo insures reply. London/SE. Box No 3815

FOR tall, slim model try next ad, real woman wants male 28-35 with GSOH. Berks. Please Reply to Box No 3685

FUN-LOVING but with depth, 2 ladies (northeast based) with lonely hearts, aged 31 & 33, enjoying life but missing optimistic gentlemen (2) 30-40 who are romantically inclined. Photo please to Box No 3720

SENSUOUS-Sexy-Stylish. We have them all at Close Encounters 0800 141 141.

HERO wanted to rescue 37 years Bucks lady from approaching tedium. All letters with photo answered. Incurable romantic with sense of humour and zest for adventure Please reply to Box No 3684

HIGHLY intelligent widow (2 yrs), exciting, pretty, fair haired / blue-eyed, WLTM tall presentable public school in his 50's, preferably academic / successful professional, kind & gentle. Interested arts, travel, walking, wild life. Photo pls. Box 3819

GREGARIOUS, attractive, intelligent, fit female, 8 WLTM successful academic/arts-loving/outdoor type. Wirral. Please Reply to Box No 3744

HI there! I'm a 27 yr old bubbly Indian fun loving Gemini. If you are looking for an attractive, intelligent gal with a great sense of humour and a passion for life, your quest is over. I'm looking for a similar 'easy' professional man (27-32) to have a friendship with. Box No 3861

INTELLIGENT, attractive, fun, 46, slim, 5'6" petite & feminine. WLTM n/s tall professional/ educated, sincere, caring gentleman, similar age, to love laugh and share again. Divorced, no ties. Sporty, tennis & golf - enjoy travel, theatre, countryside and other interests but missing the bond of a special relationship. Photo app. Sussex based. Reply to Box No 3884

INTERESTING, good looking, Englishwoman, accomplished, caring, fair & fun. WLTM prof/ret'd man (60+). London/SE. Photo plse. Box No 3492

LONDON based Accountant 29 just looking for that special man and long term future. Photo please. Box No 3409

IRISH LADIES attractive, lively personalities. Lawyers, doctors, nurses, teachers, company executives, seeking sincere, educated gentlemen, for friendship/romance/marriage? Call Equations 01372 379126 Monday-Friday 10am-8pm.

LOVELY professional lady, Lake District, seeks tall, intelligent man of integrity and humour, 48-58, to share wide interests and admire my appalling cooking. Photo app. Box No 3705

MEN - we have lots of professional ladies waiting to meet you! London/Home Counties 0171 731 4606. Elite Intro est 1989

LOVELY American lady / Psychologist in USA. 39, 5'7", English lineage seeks home loving gentleman Psychologist /human sciences, enthusiast quiet village / university lifestyle for relationship /marriage in England. Reply Box No 3801

LOVELY Leo lady, divorced, mid-forties, London. Seeks leader of the pride. Please reply with photo to Box No 3602

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MEN-why take a chance? Call Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon, Salisbury, Reading, Kent, Sussex, London. 0800 141 141. Open 7 days.

MIDLANDS Reasonably attractive widow, 55, professional woman, happy personality gentle, caring, solvent, cultured, N/S, WLTM gentleman similar background for genuine long term relationship. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 3779

MUSIC LOVING Bright, petite, positive, sometimes shy professional lady, 38, GSOH, N/S, WLTM tactile, independent man who enjoys walking, eating, and most of all life. South Hants. Photo to Box 3726

23RD MARCH B'ham, two fun loving prof females 30/34 seek two dynamic males to join them for dinner, photo appreciated. Please reply to Box No 3802

MILLIONAIRESS (Self made) mature self-made millionaire (you will understand why this is important.) I am an attractive 40 year old blonde, slim, intelligent, with a wicked sense of humour, I would like to meet someone similar to myself - a non smoker aged between 40 & 60 yrs living in SW London/Surrey area. Although I still work hard, I have ample time to enjoy the nicer things in life such as wining, dining, travelling and walking my 3 dogs. Replies to include a recent photo please to Box No 3758

ORIENTAL lady (40) in S.E., single professional, caring loving, slim, well-travelled with varied interests WLTM a genuine marriage-minded, faithful, caring and successful professional gentleman (40-60). Please reply with photo to Box No. 3383

NEEDED - realistic man with eternal ring & twinkle in his eye to start again. Same age-ish, eternally 17 or 53. N/S. Photo. Please reply to Box No 3621

PETITE blue eyed successful Dorset restaurateur, with GSOH would like to broaden her horizons. She likes travel, music, theatre, gardening, spiritual pursuits. Requires caring, N/S, solvent, unattached gentleman, late 40s-65 with a zest for life. Photo please to Box No. 3773

PLEASANTLY attractive, gentle, caring, cultured lady. Independent and solvent, needs kindly professional gentleman who enjoys classical music, theatre, the decorative arts, socialising and the countryside. Min. 5'10", 48-65 years. Rural Kent. Box No 3618

PRINCESS, kissed enough frogs seeks Prince, 30-50, curvaceous blonde (29) loves cooking & crosswords, wine & walking, opera & rock. If everyone you find attractive is attached to someone else, please write. London/SE. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3693

REASONABLE-LOOKING Female Young 64, 5'5", 9st dark. Loves music, esp vocal/chamber 1780-1911. Woods, rivers, sun, mountains, art, books, travel (Indophile). Hates winter, America, computers. Would like tall, unattached (not a bachelor) kind, solvent, educated daisy male (interest in old cars useful) to save her from foggy dew and build up happy committed relationship. Central London/Cambridge. Please Reply to Box No 3865

REDHEAD. Attractive, warm, living Oxon, seeks gentleman companion, London/ Oxon/ Glocs, for opera, theatre, cinema, meals out, also interested in countryside and rural pursuits. Photo please Box 3551

SCOTTISH country dancing, Radio 4 listening widow, 60+. Interests: family history, medicine, books, wildlife, theatre WLTM gent to share some of these. South-East. Please reply to Box No 3791

SINGAPORE lady, young looking 36 seeks romance with view to possible marriage. Please Reply to Box No 3857

SINGLE brunette lady, 31 with GSOH needs tall, dark male for fun & comfort. 30-40. Berks. Please Reply to Box No 3687

SINGLE Hampshire seeking liberal middle class man bibliophile, age, appearance, vices, virtues unimportant Box 3852

SLINKY and classy, attractive + vivacious American with easy smile, early 40's solvent, educated, enjoys arts, country, travel seeks committed relationship with boyishly charming attractive, slim, tall, N/S gallant professional 45-54. London. Photo please to Box No 3736

STYLISH, happy, slim, solvent, lady mid 60's WLTM caring gentleman 60-75 for companionship & spoiling each other. Enjoy town & country. Details/letter please. Wilts/Avon. Box No 3807

SVELTE Surrey lady seeks handsome Englishman (6ft+) 35-40, single for marr. Box No 3482

TEMPS PERDU, wit, legs, looks, sensuality, sympathy. Lady 5'6" 42, seeks velvet touch lover, literate in all senses. For liaison comfortable, rekindling. No heavy drinkers/ smokers London/ M25. Box No 3706

THINGS to do before I'm 62. Victoria Falls & Grand Canyon to view, Malaysia & Singapore fascinate me too, also the Nile. What about you? Lively affectionate female (50+) seeks sincere interested male. Write to Box No 3737 for details.

TURKISH DELIGHT 27, good looking & athletic male ready to be consumed by fun-loving and witty female. Please Reply to Box No 3788

TWO gorgeous girls New Forest based, long legged & lovely seek two independent successful men for wining, dining, fun, friendship & ??? Please Reply with photo Box No 3727

TWO lonely business women 30's need cherishing. W.Mids/ Shrops/E. Anglia. Photo appreciated. Box No. 3801

VERY ATTRACTIVE, successful lady, South of England, 38, guaranteed gorgeous seeks male. Age, looks unimportant. Box No 3849

VIVACIOUS, successful 29 yr old would like to meet confident successful professional man with GSOH, for friendship and fun. Photo please Box No 3784

WARM, caring, attractive and classy businesswoman with lots of fun, love and hugs for the right man. Based Southwest but travel not a problem. I need to be treated but would love to be pampered and spoilt. He must be tall, 40/56 genuine, kind and successful. Interested in nature, animals, travel and good things in life. Reply in detail, please with photograph. Box No 3709

WEST COUNTRY blonde lady, 5'8", slim, lively and sporty, owns successful business, early 50's, enjoys city life WLTM N/S similar male. Box No 3805

A docile, demure, domesticated, compliant man seeks assertive lady who likes to take charge. Please Reply to Box No 3806

GENTLEMEN

ACCUSED by friends of being a romantic Taurian. Sincere, sensitive, honest, 6 ft businessman 60, looks 45, widely travelled, divorced - no children. likes cooking, good wine, walking, gardening, sailing, theatre, radio 4, serious T.V./films, cards, log fires, antiques, conversation, all types of music played on best hi-fi in W. London seeks much younger woman who is N/S, confident, sharp witted, GSOH, excellent dress sense, looking for committed, loving relationship, perhaps more?. This is new for me. Recent photo plse. Box No 3061

ARTICULATE-Intelligent-Professional. We have them all at Close Encounters 0800 141 141

ADVENTURESS wanted by wealthy male executive (39) living abroad in exotic climes. Visits London 4/5 times a year WLTM lovely girl, for wining, dining & fun, etc here & there. Photo please to Box No 3690

AFFLUENT, tall, athletic early 40's, SW1 based. Last ten years spent in building a successful business wishes to make up for lost time with a very special lady with style, charm & personality. Photo plse Box3740

A KIND, caring, warm, affectionate, loyal & romantic Northerner. 40, 1.97 m. would love to spoil a tall, elegant, attractive, potential soulmate. 3662

AWARE, warm and wise arts graduate, 40's, very good looks/nature, 6 ft, athletic, lean, stylish, successful. Hampstead based. Seeks slim, sensual, creative, soulmate/lover. Photo please. Box No 3806

BUSINESSMAN 45, kind, caring, affectionate, likes wining, dining, theatre, travel, reading, sport looking for a lady who likes the better things in life for a lasting relationship. Needs someone who wants & can also give TLC. Prepared to travel for right lady. Please Reply with photo & tel. no. to Box No 3412

CARING lover, cultured man, fit 41, seeks slim, well-balanced woman for real relationship. Bucks. Reply to Box No 3743

CHARM-Charisma-Style. We have them all at Close Encounters 0800 141 141.

CONNERY soundalike, 42, seeks attractive Miss Moneypenny 28-40 for romance & adventure London to Midlands. Please Reply to Box No 3532

COSMOPOLITAN, 63, ret'd but fit & slim. WLTM attractive, slim, N/S lady living SE for travel, walks, music, bridge (sailing?) & lasting relationship Photo plse, reply to Box 3754

DAVID ESSEX Look Alike. 30s professional man. Loves sport & arts. Seeks clever, beautiful woman, 24-34 for l'amitie et l'amour, London, Scotland and North England. Box No 3783

ENJOYING good life style, widower, living in Cheshire, successful, Co. Director, W.L.T.M. an attractive, slim lady, in her forties, fit, and young in outlook. I'm 6'1" tall, sixty, slim and fit, handsome, and needing someone to love and pamper. Please write, with photo, to Box No 3620

FEET on the ground self made millionaire living London W1 WLTM preferably Asian/Far Eastern girl 23-32 yrs attractive and smart. Photo & phone number to Box No 3678

FIT-Slim-Athletic. We have them all at Close Encounters 0800 141 141.

EXPERIENCE Asia/Pacific - Bali, Bangkok, Hong Kong & Singapore, with a dynamic intelligent & attractive 39 yr old Englishman, who is running a mega international business & living a millionaire's life style! An ex barrister turned entrepreneur. I am looking for a wonderful woman to share the magic of the Far East with me. If you are attractive & amusing, prepared to ride an elephant or scuba dive, have a real sense of adventure, and like a man with a big soft fluffy bunny heart, then I will play for your flight & wine & dine you at Raffles! Photo please to Box No 3827

GENUINE single, tall, slim, fit, lively, prof. chap, 38, creative many interests, N/S, NW Sussex. WLTM similar woman. Photo appr ALA. Box No 3879

GENUINE ARTICLE, 42, M.D of p.l.c., handsome, athletic and charismatic Loves children, non-pretentious, living in South. A.L.A. Box No 3848

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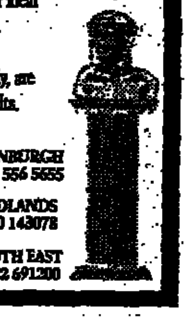

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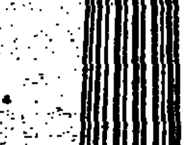

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KEW. Close to 'The Gardens' and station a fine Edwardian house in excellent decorative order. Drawing room, dining room, utility and cloakrooms Modern kitchen/breakfast room, splendid master bedroom with study area and en-suite shower room. 4 further beds plus bathroom. front and rear gardens. £278,000 F/H. Fitz-Gibbon Residential 0181 940 9920.

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BLOOMSBURY MEWS, WC1. New 3 bed, 3 rec house. Garage FH. NHBC. £398,000. Barnard Marcus. 0171 636 2736

BLOOMSBURY, WC1. Spac 2 bed flat 2nd flr £104,995. Barnard Marcus 0171 636 2736.

FITROVIA, W1 1 bed flat in mod blk. 4th flr. Lift. £95,000. Barnard Marcus 0171 636 2736.

MONTAGU MANSIONS W1 nr Baker St top flr 2 bed flatneeds refurb. Lift. porter. chw & part ch. Lease 88 years. £125,000. Tel J S & Co 0171 258 0800

REGENTS PK Charming 3 bedrm hse with a gge in a quiet backwater within sight of Regents Park. So hidden away its almost a secret! F/h £389,500 Tel J S & Co 0171 258 0800

W1 1830's mews hse on the Howard de Walden Estate. 3 bed. 2 rec. 3 bath. gge. G ch. Gd order Lease 960 yrs £335,000 Tel J S & Co 0171 258 0800

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CHICHESTER (4 mls sth) Grade II farmhse well modernised Hall, clks, 3 rec. lge kit/brk. util 5 bds 3 bths scope annexe lge gdn Dble gge OIRO £295,000 Stride & Son 01243 782626

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£84,500
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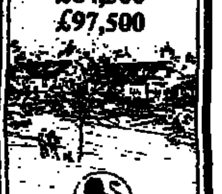

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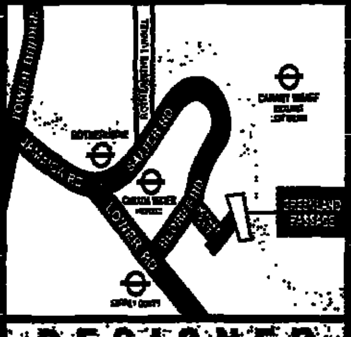

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Sunningdale £615,000 **Call 01628 770070**
Broadwood Place. One magnificent Georgian styled home remaining on this beautiful development of just two 5 bedroom properties. The house has views across a waterfall feature and benefits from a spectacular entrance hall with divided staircase, and a triple garage with studio above. The train station is within walking distance. (Waterloo 40 minutes)

Curridge £310,000 to £365,000 **Call 01256 814314**
Oaklands, Nr Newbury. A luxury development of five 5 bedroom houses each set in half an acre with 2 houses also boasting an additional 1/2 paddock.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Taplow £199,750 to £2[illegible] **Call 01628 770070**
Chiltern Manor Chase. In a private parkland setting of approximately 5.5 acres with a tennis court, this unique development is set around a landscaped courtyard and features Georgian styled 3 bedroom detached and semi detached properties with 4 bedroom 2 storey town houses. A formal, classical development in mellow brick with a rural charm. *Sales centre open 7 days a week 10am to 5pm.*

Wooburn Green £126,950 **Call 01628 770070**
Bakers Orchard. Only 3 homes now remain on this charming develop-ment in a picturesque setting on the edge of the village green, featuring 5 bedroom cottages using a variety of materials including brick and flint. One of the properties benefit from a garage. Nearby Bourne End station allows access to Paddington. (approximately 40 minutes)

HAMPSHIRE

Compton Down £377,000 to £385,000 **Call 01256 814314**
Just two detached 5 bedroom executive homes in an exclusive established residential area allowing easy access to the M3 and Winchester. Each property enjoys a large garden featuring an established wooded copse.

Awbridge £275,000 **Call 01256 814314**
A single and substantial detached 5 bedroom property offering extensive family accommodation with a 1¼ acre garden. 3 mile from Romsey. 11 miles to the M3 and 7 miles to the M27

Pennington £295,000 to £370,000 **Call 01256 814314**
Situated in one of Penningtons most exclusive addresses, the meticulously designed courtyard development of only four 4 and 5 bedroom properties features a converted barn and each property has a large garden. Two of the properties feature views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight.

Alton £179,950 to £184,950 **Call 01256 814314**
The Butts. Seven new 4 bedroom detached family homes and one conversion overlooking the green and within an easy walk of the town centre.

SURREY

Pyrford From £72,500 to £325,000 **Call 01932 868999**
St Martins Mews & St Nicholas Crescent. Floyds Lane. The opportunity to purchase into this successful and innovative development of spacious 1 and 2 bedroom luxury apartments, 3 bedroom houses and 3 and 4 bedroom town houses, set within 20 acres of private and secure parkland. Only 40 minutes from London.

Tadworth From £361,500 **Call 01932 868999**
Watts Close. Three, individually designed 5 bedroom, 4 reception room family homes located on the border of Walton on the Hill and Tadworth with easy access to the M25 and Tadworth BR station (London Bridge 45 minutes)

Cobham From £750,000 and £850,000 **Call 01932 868999**
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showhome open daily from 10am

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LOANS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOANS SECURED ON IT. *Bespoke Mortgage Services Limited is an Introducer Firm only to the Commercial Union Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for Life Assurance and Pensions, Unit Trusts, UCITS and PEPs*

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Berkeley HOMES
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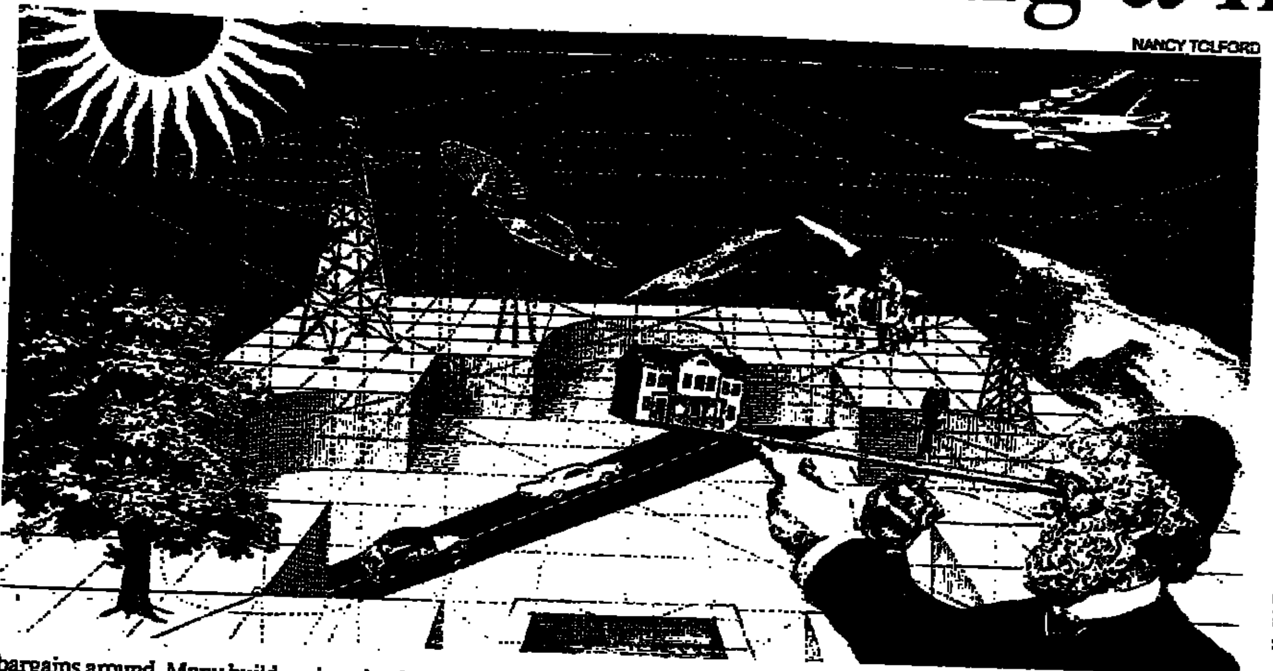
PROPERTY

Perfect plot for building a house

Part one: how to check out a suitable site and then buy the land



NANCY TELFORD

Forget creaking, draughty Georgian piles that cost a mint to run. Stop hunting for that perfect neo-modern house — when you find one it probably won't be where you want it and there will be a dozen almost the same on the executive estate. Before the design plans of your dreams disappear for ever under the dust and rubble of a full-scale conversion of a nondescript prewar semi, consider doing what the diggers down-under do — build a house from scratch yourself.

A good size three-bedroom family house can be built for as little as £75,000, including materials and labour, if you are prepared to organise the construction work yourself. The architect's fee (between 8 and 15 per cent of the building costs), buying the land and landscaping will be extra.

First, you need land, preferably with outline planning consent. As site values can represent 50 or 60 per cent of a property's completed costs in some parts of the southeast, this will take a large chunk of your budget, but there are bargains around. Many builders, unable to wait until the housing market improves, are cutting their losses by selling plots. Finding the right plot, however, is not easy. There are plenty on offer but you will not find many For Sale boards. The best source of sites are local builders; farmers also sometimes have plots.

Many local authorities have small infill sites between existing properties, or redundant school playing fields with outline planning consent.

Keep an open mind; the best site might not be the most obvious. Disused industrial land can make an ideal building plot, but ensure the land is not contaminated by having a soil test done. Another approach is to find a dilapidated house on a good-sized plot, demolish it and rebuild.

Someone who owns a large garden might be prepared to sell a slice, particularly if it has good access and you pay cash. If you want to approach an owner direct, your best information source is the local Land Registry, now required by law to disclose the ownership of any registered title for a fee.

There are also commercial land-finding companies. Landbank Services provides lists of estate agents, land agents, local authorities and auctioneers.

The price of a plot is determined by its size, location, availability of planning consent and how much of the land can be built on. Buying a site without approval for development means you risk being left with a worthless plot if planning permission is subsequently refused.

Sites with outline planning permission will often be limited by conditions that restrict building to a minimum. Others have existing legal covenants that prohibit construction. There may be a public footpath running through it, inadequate access, or plans for a new road or development nearby. Your solicitor should check this.

Outline consent usually lapses after three years and may not be renewed, so check when it was granted with the local planning department. Land described as a "building plot" is not always suitable. If ground conditions are poor, special foundations will be needed. A structural engineer can advise you. Make sure essential services (mains water, drainage, gas and electricity) are readily available, or the cost of their provision could be prohibitive.

A site with a tree preservation order could pose problems. You also need to take account of large trees close to the house when putting in foundations.

If you are buying in a Conservation Area, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or a National Park, the house design may be restricted; and the planners may require you to use expensive traditional materials, such as local stone or slate.

The cheapest areas for building plots are the Scottish Highlands and parts of rural Wales; the most expensive, apart from central London, is the Surrey stockbroker belt, where prices are at least five times higher than Scotland.

Landbank Services has a third-of-an-acre plot at Kinlochewe, near Loch Maree in Scotland, for £10,000, with outline planning consent for a single property.

Or you could buy a quarter-acre plot with essential services in Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey, for £180,000 with consent for a chalet bungalow.

In south Devon, a fifth of an acre at Thurlestone, near the sea and an 18-hole golf course, costs £50,000 through Marchand Petit. It has outline consent for a three bedroom bungalow and essential services.

A half-an-acre plot at Kingswear, south Devon, is available for £100,000 through Strutt & Parker. It occupies an elevated position overlooking the River Dart with outline consent for a four-bedroom house with an indoor pool.

On an even larger scale, Knight Frank is selling a 35 acre site in the Scottish borders, near St Boswells, for £35,000 with three new fish ponds and outline consent for a farmhouse and holiday chalets.

Moving upmarket, there are 14 acres in the New Forest near Fritham for £300,000 through Savills, with consent for a two-storey, four-bedroom, three-bathroom house.

Savills' Norwich office is asking £30,000 for a single plot (0.14 acres) in the village of Swanton Novers in Norfolk, which has permission for a four-bedroom house and garage.

CHERYL TAYLOR

● *Landbank Services, PO Box 2035, Reading, Berkshire (01734 618002); Marchand Petit 01548 857588; Strutt & Parker 01392 215631; Knight Frank 0131-225 8171; Savills 01722 320422 or 01603 612211.*

Next week: instructing an architect and building the house

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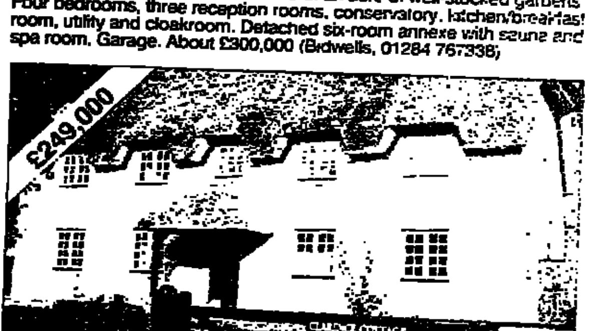
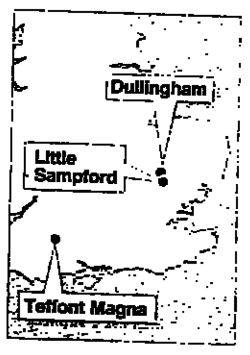
THATCHED HOUSES

SUFFOLK
Nappa House, Dullingham, near Newmarket. Grade II-listed, early 19th-century village house in a third of an acre of well-stocked gardens. Four bedrooms, three reception rooms, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, utility and cloakroom. Detached six-room annexe with sauna and spa room. Garage. About £300,000 (Bidwells, 01284 767338)

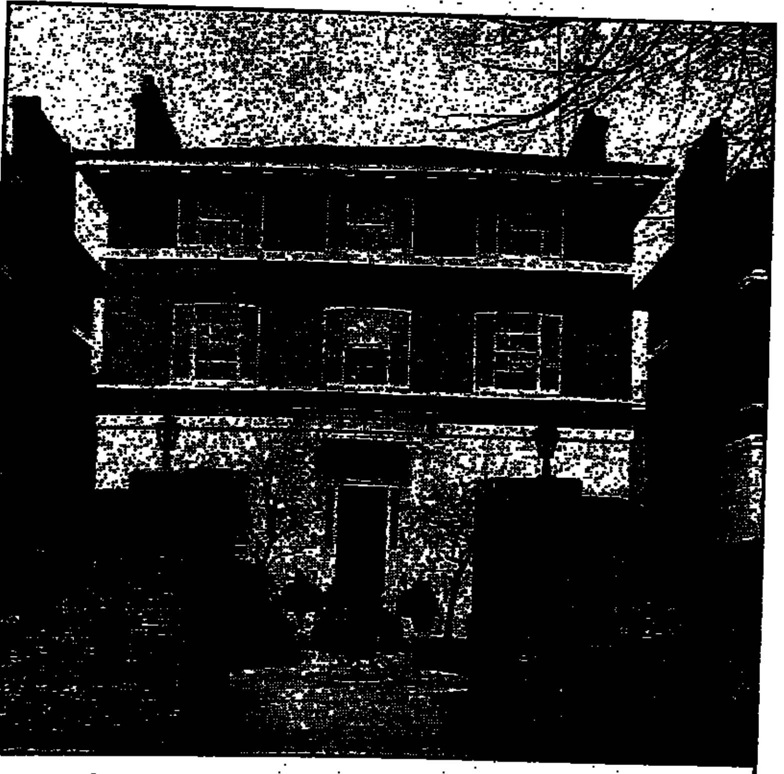


WILTSHIRE
Clarence Cottage, Teffont Magna. Picturesque cottage in lawned gardens with a detached barn, in a village conservation area on the edge of the Nadder valley. Five bedrooms, three bathrooms (two en suite), three reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast room and utility. About £249,000 (Humberts' 01722 324422)



ESSEX
Mill Cottage, Little Sampford. Grade-II listed, 18th-century timber-framed cottage with garden and country views. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), two reception rooms, garden room, fitted kitchen, utility and cloakroom. Garage/workshop. About £160,000 (Trembath Welch, 01371 872117)

CHERYL TAYLOR



ST JOHN'S WOOD, NW8 Lease to 2061 £2,750,000
In an exclusive private cul-de-sac behind Lords Cricket Grounds, a magnificent detached house having a separate mews house with a double garage. 7 beds, dressing room, 6 baths, cloakroom, 3 receps, large kitchen, utility room, sauna/shower, front and rear landscaped gardens, private parking. Mews: 2 rooms, kitchenette, bathroom.
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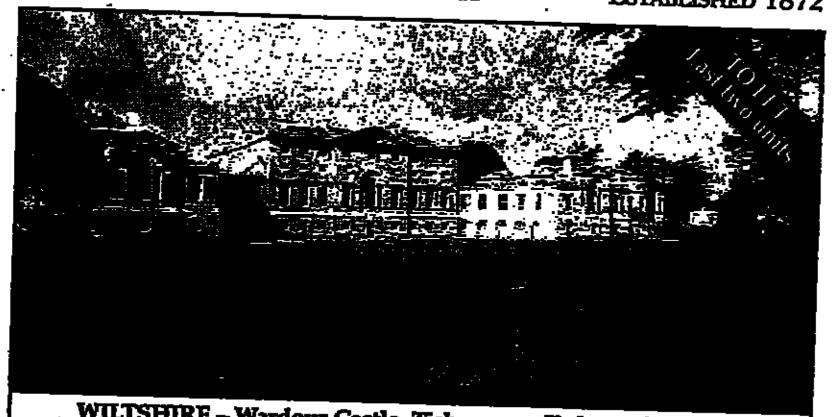

WILTSHIRE – Wardour Castle, Tisbury To let unfurnished
Apartments of 2 and 4 bedrooms, in an historic house set in 50 acres in an idyllic rural situation. Sympathetically restored, the apartments are of the highest quality ranging from 2500 to 4000 sq ft, with classical minimalist interiors, English oak floors, marble bathrooms, Czech & Speake fittings, German kitchen appliances and comprehensive security systems. The grounds are being restored to the original designs of Woods and Capability Brown.
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0171-493 4106 FAX: 0171-629 6071

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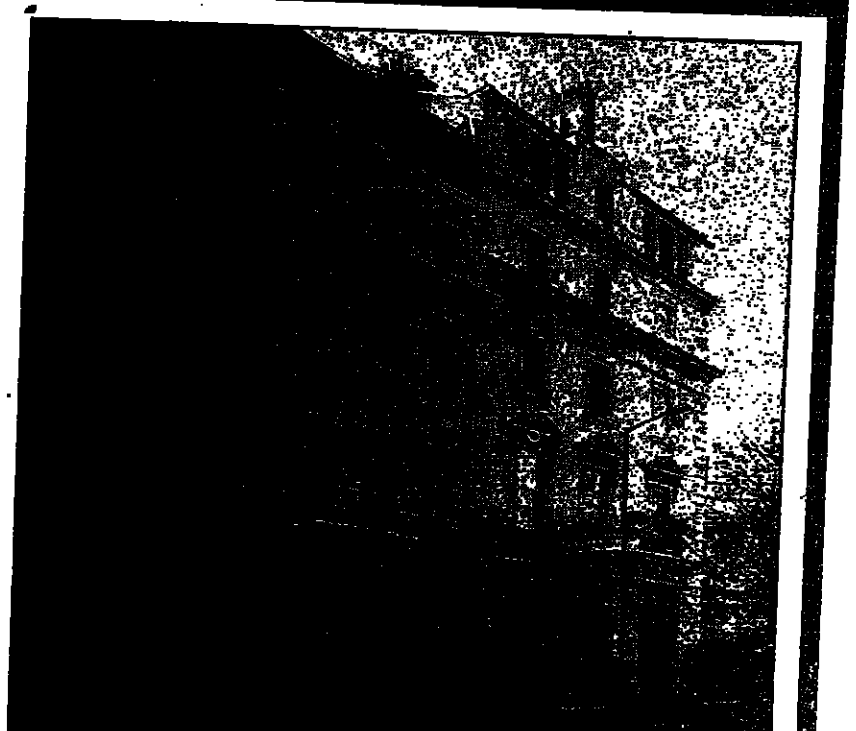
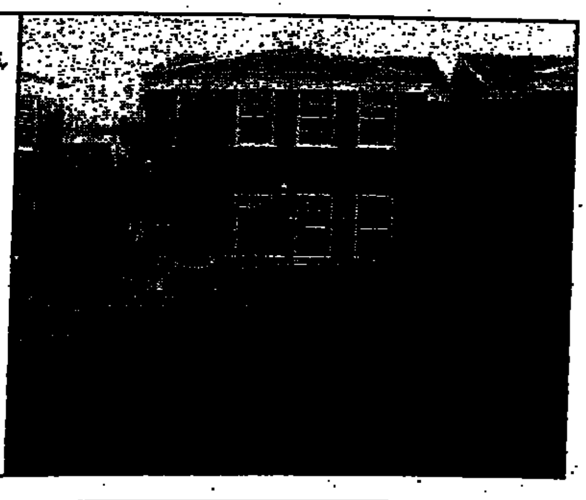
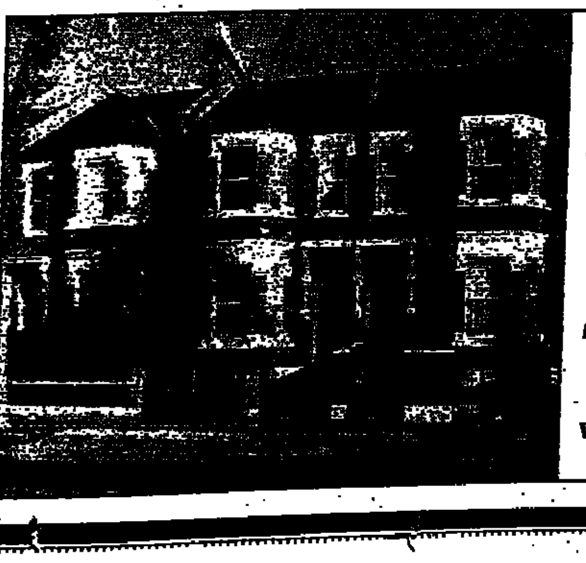


BELGRAVE PLACE, SW1 Lease to 2027 £1,500,000
On the 1st floor of an elegant building with views over Belgrave Square, an outstanding, spacious, well presented flat of over 307 sq m (3,300 sq ft). 2 principal beds, 2 baths, 2 receps/entertainment rooms, study, galleried library, separate guest flat, balcony, underground parking, lift, resident caretaker.
BELGRAVIA: 0171-730 9854

PEMBROKE GARDENS CLOSE, W8
A very well decorated detached house with a west facing garden leading directly onto a communal garden. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception room, kitchen, cloakroom, garage, off-street parking.
Freehold £595,000
KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705



HAMPSHIRE
Winchester
Overlooking Oram's Arbour with views across the City, an imposing, well modernised late Victorian house with a potential s/c annexe. 6 beds, 3 baths, 3 receps, kit, 2 clks, utility/2nd kit, outbuildings, 2 garages, parking, walled garden.
Price Guide: £425,000
WINCHESTER: 01962 863131



GERALDINE ROAD, SW18
Near Allfarthing Lane and set back from the road, a beautifully presented Victorian house with a bright double aspect drawing room. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, recep, kitchen, loft, cellar, front & rear gardens.
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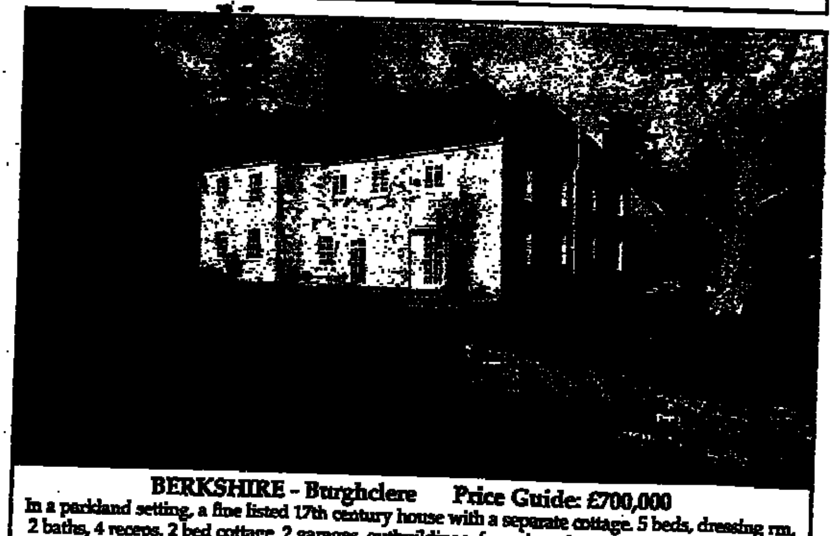

BERKSHIRE - Burghclere Price Guide: £700,000
In a parkland setting, a fine listed 17th century house with a separate cottage. 5 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, 4 receps. 2 bed cottage. 2 garages, outbuildings, formal gardens, walled kitchen garden, tennis court, swimming pool, pond, paddocks, woodland. About 8.9 ha (22 acres).
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SURREY
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Price Guide: £370,000
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هكذا فن الرجل

Superyachts on the crest of a wave

Sailing

Just for a moment, on a bitterly cold day in the Solent, there was a breath of the warm Caribbean. In a light, north-westerly wind, *Yanneke Too* glided along, heeling gently as her acres of sail caught the breeze and the sun cast a golden shadow across her sweeping expanse of teak deck.

It was easy to imagine this most elegant of yachts on a turquoise sea under a really warm sun — the ultimate cruising machine in the ultimate cruising ground.

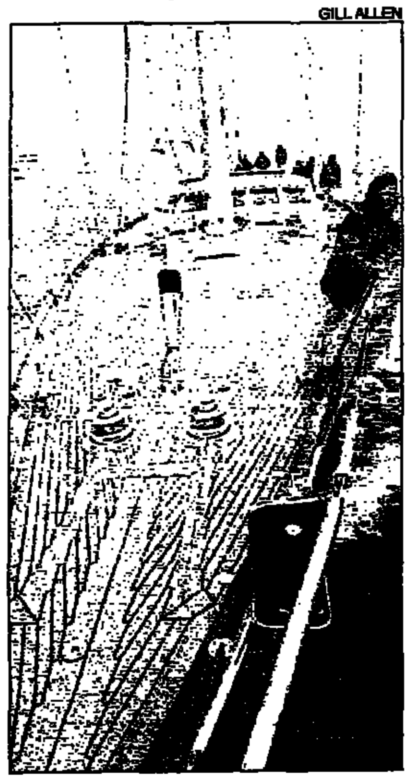
Charlie Dwyer, the professional skipper from Newport, Rhode Island, who heads a full-time crew of five on this latest "superyacht" from a British yard, took his gloved hands off the wheel to bang some heat back into them.

"I've been on a few of them and this one is absolutely beautiful," he said. On the foredeck, Mike Hallagher, a crew member, seemed to be playing with the remote control of a model aeroplane. But he was actually using a hand-held keyboard to unfurl one of the boat's huge mainsails.

Yanneke Too's formal launch this month is the latest evidence of the resurgence in demand for superyachts at the top end of the luxury cruising market. Since the mid-1980s there has been a threefold increase in the global production of boats more than 100ft long, reflecting a renewed enthusiasm among the super-rich for sailing in style. The recession has not touched everyone.

Although more than twice as many of the new superyachts are motor-driven as opposed to sail-powered, the sailing market is looking healthy, with 147 new boats completed between 1985 and 1994, mainly in America, Italy, Holland, Germany and Australia. *Yanneke Too* is the product of one of Britain's leading manufacturers in this sector, Camper & Nicholsons, which has built yachts from its yard in Portsmouth Harbour since 1782. It produced magnificent America's Cup and "J" class racers in the 1920s and 1930s and a range of medium to large cruising yachts from the 1960s onwards, including the popular Nicholson 32 and Nicholson 55. The yard, which appears to be recovering well from recent financial difficulties, chose to specialise in the superyacht market in the mid-1980s.

GILL ALLEN



The VAT bill on *Yanneke Too*'s two booms alone was £26,000

Yanneke Too, designed by Southampton-based Bill Dixon, has taken more than two years to build. She was ordered by a publicity-shy European multimillionaire businessman who only allowed journalists on board if they undertook, in writing, not to reveal his identity. It is said that he plans to keep her initially in the Caribbean, from where she will venture into the Pacific and as far north as Alaska.

No one at Campers was prepared to say exactly what she cost but one estimate of $4-5 million (£2.5 million to £3.25 million) is likely to be on the low side. An indication of the scale of expenditure is given by the impressive bill on the two booms — custom-built in New Zealand — which for VAT alone came to £26,000.

The yacht has a clean, sleek and timeless look. The interior is stunning. She is fitted out for 12 people, six crew forward and six guests aft, including the owner in a double state room with an adjoining study and ensuite bathroom. There is a tremendous feeling of space throughout the boat, which is finished in cherry wood with burr maple inlays in the panelling in the owner's areas.

Bill Dixon has achieved his brief of creating an elegant feel.

"This boat should feel very homely," he said as we reclined in the lower saloon, made up of three sofas arranged on one side and a dining area on the other, exploiting the 26ft width of the boat to the full. The entertainment console was 6ft tall. The TV arose magically from the sideboard at the flick of yet another remote keypad.

"Although she's large, she is not intimidating," said Dixon. "She's something you feel quite comfortable with."

The galley resembled a small kitchen you might find in a well-furnished flat and was filled with the latest power-hungry cooking technology. Sarah Thomson, *Yanneke Too's* full-time stewardess, was effusive about the boat's safety and comfort. During a recent trial in 25 knots of wind she had spent the day down below doing the ironing.

Among other notable features are the computer controlled-lighting in all areas, an extensive alarm system which can tell the crew if a porthole or hatch has been left open, the gold-plated taps in the bathrooms, and five lavatories.

Nick Maris, the owner and chairman of Campers, summed up the philosophy behind superyachts like *Yanneke Too*.

"It's all about lifestyle," he said. "For people who have the money, this boat should make a bigger difference to their lifestyle than any other possession apart from their home. It's a pampering environment — another plane of hedonism and comfort."

And as if this superyacht had not displayed enough of its desirable qualities, he pointed out three more modest selling points: "A lot of these guys are hard-pressed executives. This saves their heart, their marriage and their kids."

EDWARD GORMAN

Next week: Sailing up the Thames to Tower Bridge

Yanneke Too fact file

Overall length: 116ft 6in (89ft 4in on the waterline).
Width: 26ft.
Draught: *9ft 6in*
Displacement: 128 tonnes.
Engine: 470 horsepower converted Japanese digger.
Upwind sail area: a massive 5,837sq ft on a Schooner rig.
Twin masts of carbon fibre; the hull has a cedar wood core with laminates of GRP and Kevlar for extra strength.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE HISTORIC PROPERTY

Chartwell, Kent, was the family home of Sir Winston Churchill from 1922

The Times/NPI National Heritage Awards

Since the launch of the National Heritage Awards last autumn, readers of *The Times* have nominated more than 160 properties which they consider to be the best in the British Isles.

The awards, in association with pensions specialist NPI, now moves onto the voting stage and today we publish a voting form, right, containing the 16 short-listed finalists. You can also vote for *The Times* Family award, by selecting a property you consider makes a special effort to entertain and inform adults and children.

The winning property will be presented with a crystal trophy by Lord Inglewood, under secretary of state at the Department of National Heritage, at a gala reception in London in April. By registering your vote, you will automatically be entered into a prize draw for the chance to attend the ceremony with a guest.

Coffee table books illustrating historic buildings, worth £20 each, will go to 20 runners-up.

Post the voting form to:
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Heritage Awards, Spero
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Chatsworth		Hever Castle	
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Culzean Castle		Warwick Castle	

The Times Family Award
Please tick one only

Bolsover Castle		Dover Castle	
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Jill Parkin reports on one of the long-term problems of food biotechnology

EPL/DAVID HOFFMAN

Genetic engineering might mean herbicide-resistant wheat but the result could be a chemical cocktail with an unknown price. *Below: pernicious black grass*

Chips and genes on the menu

They are sitting ready for us on the laboratory shelf — potatoes, sugar beet and oilseed rape, none quite as nature intended. Scientists have taken a gene from here, put a gene in there, and produced crops which are resistant to some herbicides. Other crops, even wheat, are only a test-tube or two away.

The basic idea sounds good. It means that farmers can spray a whole field, crop and weeds, with a simple and environmentally safe weedkiller, saving time and money.

But once licences are granted to do this, the short-term benefits could soon give way to long-term problems. Put simply, crops and weeds tend to interbreed, and if herbicide resistance is passed on to the weeds, the simple and safe weedkiller becomes redundant. Something stronger will be needed.

Bill Starling, the deputy director of British Organic Farmers, says: "Genetic tampering is like taking the stopper out of a pantomime bottle: it releases a genie of uncertain temper and unknown power.

"Producing herbicide-tolerant crops means using more non-renewable resources to produce more chemicals for deliberate introduction into the environment. By interfering with nature we are storing up a lot of long-term problems for short-term gain."

This short-term gain horrifies Vicki Hird, of the Sustainable Agriculture Food and Environment Alliance (SAFE), which represents 33 groups with farming, environmental, animal welfare and education interests. "Why do we need it?" she asks.

One of the answers is in a report by the biotechnology working party of the National Farmers' Union. Genetically modified potatoes would have improved flavour, mash texture and evenness of fry colour, it says. Those of green persuasion might think we could get by without such attributes.

"In the long term, it will increase the level of herbicides used," Ms Hird says. "The big beneficiaries are the biotech companies — the same companies which produce the herbicide-resistant crops and the herbicides. This means that the farmer gets the whole package. He is controlled by the companies."

Herbicide-resistant crops could be sprayed with products that are hardly used on crops at the moment because they are so basic and strong that they kill anything green. Gluphosinate ammonium and glyphosate, sold as Basta and Round-Up, are environmentally "fairly benign", says Clare Gosling, the food science adviser to the NFU. "They're general, not specific. They have low toxicity, don't stay around long and bio-degrade into a non-harmful compound.

"But it would be a real problem if more than one tolerance occurred. You would then have to use a chemical cocktail to kill off the weeds."

But resistance can occur naturally, she says. As the weeds fight to survive, it's the ones with some natural resistance which multiply. It's a problem wheat farmers already have, particularly with the pernicious black grass, a weed whose black "rats' tails" stand out dramatically against the crop. Naturally occurring herbicide-resistant weeds in wheat fields are, literally, a growing problem.

Another problem occurs when you use a field for a herbicide-resistant crop and then reuse it for another crop the next year. Remnants of last year's crop become weeds, very tough ones.

At the moment, the genie is still in the bottle. None of the products has yet been commercially licensed in Britain, though the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) says that some limited licences have been granted for testing. The whole issue, a MAFF spokesman says, is with the European Commission.

It would be wrong to portray the farmers as nothing but environmental baddies, poised with a jar of chemical nasties, their eyes on bigger profit margins. Although the report by the NFU biotechnology working party considers herbicide-tolerant weeds "a low risk", the NFU says it is worried for the long term and does not want the responsibility to be left to farmers.

The organisation would like to see a government policy and "clarification of liability for any environmental harm resulting from release to the environment of genetically modified organisms".

Mr Starling would prefer more cash to be spent on producing natural crops; cash in the shape of a big boost to the organic aid scheme the Government introduced in 1994.

"Chemically produced food is far more expensive than most people realise," he says. "When you buy organic apples and turnips you're paying all the costs involved, but when you buy chemically produced fruit and vegetables you are not paying anything towards clearing up after those apples and turnips which have made a chemical mess."

Beauties that beat the fashion cull

Feather report

IN THE 1850s there was a fashion among women for "grebe furs" made of the beautiful plumage of the great crested grebe. The birds were massacred in large numbers and by the end of the decade there were thought to be only 32 pairs left in Britain.

Bird protection was then in its infancy but determined legislation saved the species. By the 1930s the population was back to a thousand or so pairs, assisted by a spread of the birds westward across Europe. Since then, with an increase of suitable waters caused by the flooding of old gravel pits, it has increased to about 5,000 pairs.

You can find at least one pair on most large waters in the south of England and the Midlands, and here and there in other parts of the country. They are conspicuous in mid-February: back in summer plumage, with black ear tufts and a silky chestnut ruff tipped with black high on their slender necks. When they look directly at you they have an evil appearance, with their threatening, sharp-pointed bill and their black ear tufts meeting in front like a devil mask.

On the back, they are black tinged with brown. Underneath they are pure white. When they roll over to preen they look like a bundle of silvery white feathers floating on the water.

They are now forming into pairs and the courting couples put on a dramatic display. They swim up and face each other and shake their heads vigorously, with the ear tufts lifted and the brilliant ruff spread out.

On a windy February day, these adornments are blown about and their heads look like woolly mops. While they are displaying, they make curious clicking sounds, and between bouts of head-shaking they have sessions of vigorous, formalised preening.

The great crested grebe

The grebes keep to large lakes because they need a long runway to get into the air. In fact, they fly about very little. When they are alarmed they disappear under the water and come up further away. They also feed underwater, swimming with the use of their large, lobed feet. Nobody understands why they have these lobes, rather than webbed feet like ducks. Lobed feet are usually found in birds, such as coots, that both swim and walk a good deal. Grebes never walk, except to take a step or two across their floating nests.

THE NESTS are a heap of reeds and other vegetation and, though they float, they are generally attached to underwater plants. At the edge of a slow-flowing river you can sometimes find one attached to the overhanging twigs of a willow tree on the bank. The nests are always vulnerable to flooding.

The four or five eggs in a clutch are white but soon get stained from the damp vegetation with which the incubating bird covers them when it leaves the nest for a break.

The birds are usually said to nest from March to August but I have found them breeding both earlier and later. Two years ago I found a bird sitting on eggs at the beginning of February, and last year I was astonished to see one with a small chick in early January.

This last bird was probably a late autumn nester, still in the previous summer's breeding plumage, rather than an early spring nester. Where I saw the chick was also dramatic: it was sitting on its parent's back. Grebes sometimes carry their chicks like this to protect them from pike, who, when it comes to grebes, are as heartless as fashionable women seem to have been 150 years ago.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — watch out for rooks rebuilding nests. Twitchers — white-billed diver at Staithes Harbour, North Yorkshire; male black-throated thrush at Webheath, Worcestershire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p a minute at all other times.*

هكذا من الأصل

Happy new year for Soho

Gerrard Street's red-and-gold pagoda arches welcome you to Chinatown, where the windows are crammed with varnished ducks

The Vintage Magazine Company has back issues of everything from *Beano* to *Playboy*

Chinatown, speciality shops, a market and bustling streets — Soho has it all

Reverse-dial clock at Anything Left Handed. Right: heady aromas lure shoppers into the Algerian Coffee Stores

London's Chinatown will come spectacularly alive during next week's Chinese New Year — adding even more bustle and colour to Soho, where it is situated.

Soho is one of the friendliest and most misunderstood places in London; its small area of sleaze often grabbing the biggest headlines.

Chinatown is separated from the rest of Soho by Shaftesbury Avenue, but there is no mistaking it when you arrive: pagoda-like arches span each end of Gerrard Street, the lamp-posts and litter bins are red and gold, and huge, stone lion-dogs snarl down at you. What the Chinese think of the Lego-like telephone boxes is anyone's guess. Window after window in Gerrard Street is crammed with glowing racks of varnished ducks. There are dozens of Chinese restaurants here, but the best value is **China China**, an unglamorous and brightly lit place (be prepared to share a table) where two people can fill themselves with delicious Cantonese food for about £10 (two dishes plus rice and tea). The **Lido** restaurant is also worth a visit; superb meals are served from 11.30am until 4.30am. Everything you need for home chinese cooking is available from the large and enticing supermarket **Loon Fung**.

Everywhere you hear the distinctive twang of Chinese pop music, available from **Sound of China**, which has thousands of Chinese CDs from £10.

Leaving Chinatown via Wardour Street, you arrive at Brewer Street. About halfway down is **Anything Left Handed**, a tiny shop selling not only the expected — scissors (still its best-selling item at £5.95), tin-openers (£13.95), corkscrews (£14.95) and serrated knives (£7.95-£35.95) — but also such items as a clock with all the numerals in reverse (£19.95), a boomerang (£12.95) and a scythe (£56.95). The shop runs the Left-Handers Club — and recently persuaded Lloyds Bank to introduce a back-to-front cheque book.

Also in Brewer Street is the **Vintage Magazine Company** — an addictive shop whose lower floor is devoted to back issues (sometimes ancient) of every collectable publication from *Beano* (£1-£150 each) to *Playboy* (from £8). Original film posters range from £2 to around £500 (*The Great Escape* is £125). Upstairs is the domain of the cult: still photographs £3, repro posters (around £8) and T-shirts (£10) featuring such idols as Kojak, Frankie Howerd, Charlie's Angels, Starsky and Hutch. They also have great 10in models of the Beatles (£130).

Just off Brewer Street (beyond Raymond's Revue Bar) is **Berwick Street market**, open daily except Sunday, selling mainly fruit, veg and flowers. Go there in the late afternoon for bargains — £1 for six avocados. Here too is the shop **Simply Sausages**. The best seller in a range of 35 is Heaps No 1 (Mr Heap is the proprietor, and here is a classic 90-per-cent-meat pork banger at £2.99 a pound); for Burns Night they sold 100lb of haggis (not to the same person).

Camisa and Son in Old Compton Street is a shoebox-sized, traditional Italian deli (always packed and with a long queue outside) offering, among many other delectables, the finest Parmesan cheese cut from huge truckles at only £6.99 a pound.

What about a drink? **Gerry's Club** in Dean Street, now 40 years old, is a haven for actors, writers and musicians — apply for membership if you qualify. At No 58, **Dean Street Records** — with thousands of lovely old LPs — specialises in film soundtracks, shows and such vocalists as Sinatra and Eydie Gorme. James Bond is highly collectable (£10-£90), as are cult film albums such as *Barbarella*, *The Italian Job* and *Bullitt* (about £40 each).

Curios spill onto the pavement in busy Gerrard Street

Chinese-style phone booth

Back in Old Compton Street is the **Algerian Coffee Stores** — a beautiful shop established in 1887, heady with the strong aroma of 60 coffees and 140 teas. The most popular coffee is a high-roast blend of South American and Central American beans called Velluto Nero at £2.60 for half a pound. Excellent espresso and cappuccino are available to drink on the premises, and the shop also sells all manner of tea and coffee-making paraphernalia.

Before succumbing to the joys of dinner, have a look in **P. Denny**, a splendid old oak-panelled shop specialising in clothes for the catering trade: boring things such as aprons, yes — but also chic double-breasted chefs' jackets with Nehru collars and buttons in any colour you like at just £13.95. And why haven't the fashion pages plundered the blue-and-white check chefs' trousers at £7.50 and striped waistcoats (£27.50)?

Garments of a very different nature abound at **Agent Provocateur** in Broadwick Street. This is a seriously sexy shop selling all sorts of upmarket lingerie in deep pink, purple and turquoise and aqua-green. Marilyn Monroe is in the window, bending over a chair wearing exceedingly abbreviated underwear — stopping the traffic, not for the first time.

Prices range from £9 for stockings ("We don't sell tights — not sexy") to hundreds for a feather-trimmed negligée. Batches of six pairs of 1950s nylons are available in their original boxes at £90.

Time to cool down and perhaps to fill up at one of Soho's long-established restaurants: **L'Escargot** in Greek Street — opened in 1927 — has just received a well-merited Michelin rosette (from £70 for a dinner for two, with wine). Or try **L'Epicure**, in Frith Street — opened in 1953 — a restaurant that has barely changed since those nylon stockings were made. Dishes such as entrecôte Diane (£8) are cooked to order at your table. Two flaming torches guide you to this fine restaurant — welcome beacons after all this traipsing around.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

FACT FILE

● (Telephone numbers have the prefix 0171 unless stated otherwise.) China China, 3 Gerrard Street (439 7502); Lido Restaurant, 41 Gerrard Street (437 4431); Loon Fung, 42 Gerrard Street, (437 7179); Sound of China, 6 Gerrard Street (734 1970). Anything Left Handed, 57 Brewer Street (437 3910); Vintage Magazine Company, 39-43 Brewer Street (439 8525). Simply Sausages, 93 Berwick Street (287 3482); Gerry's Club, 52 Dean Street (437 4160); No 58, Dean Street Records (437 4500); Camisa and Son, 61 Old Compton Street (437 7610); Algerian Coffee Stores, 52 Old Compton Street (437 2480); P Denny & Co, 39 Old Compton Street (437 1654); Agent Provocateur, 6 Broadwick Street (439 0229); L'Epicure, 28 Frith Street (437 2829); L'Escargot, 48 Greek Street (437 0790).

● The Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rat, starts on Monday. Celebrations will be on Sunday, February 25. The Lion Dance begins about 1.10pm in Leicester Square and continues into Chinatown, followed by a display of martial arts at about 1.30pm. For more details ring 0171-734 5161. Other cities celebrating on February 25 include: Manchester (0161-236 4515); Liverpool (0151-708 8833); Newcastle (0191-232 8520).

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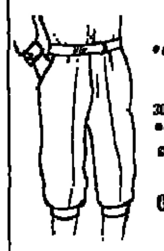

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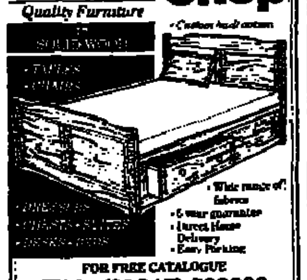

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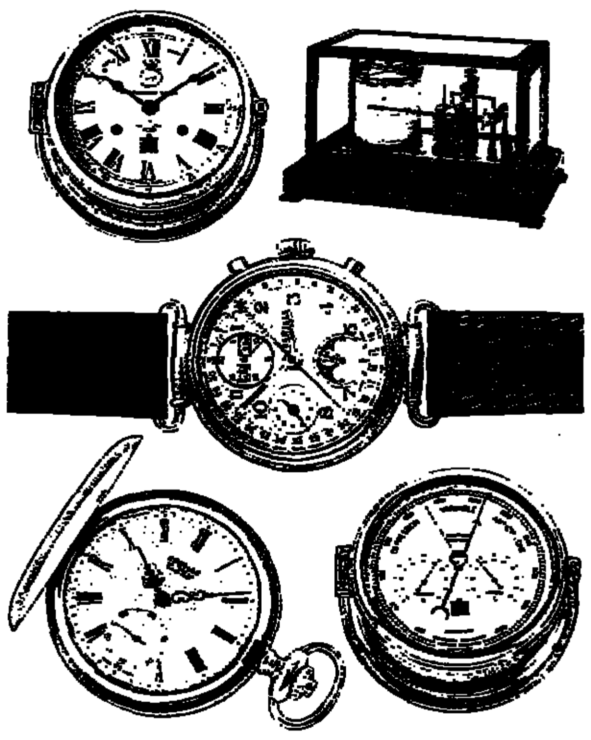

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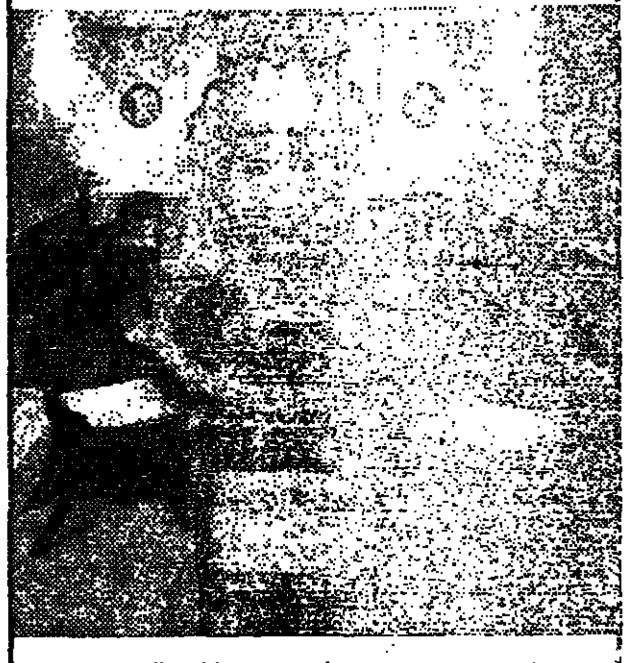

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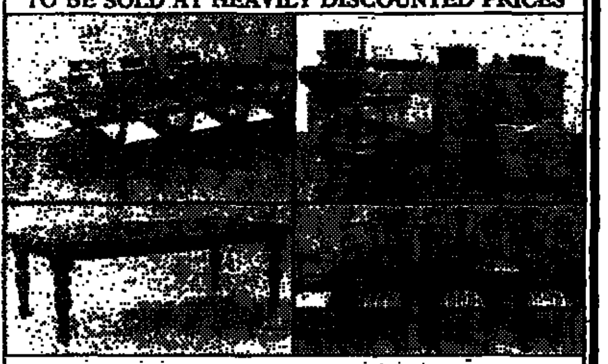

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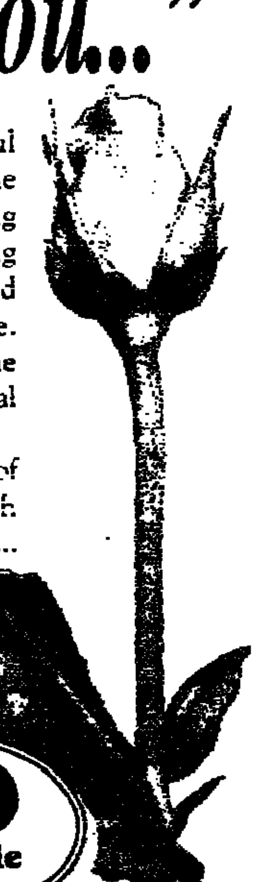

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Why this belly-flattening video works in just *7 minutes a day*

The abdominal exercises in my Video work ONLY your abdominal muscles. They do not work your back, neck or other parts of your body. The 7 simple exercises in my Video automatically target your abdominal muscles – and only your abdominal muscles.

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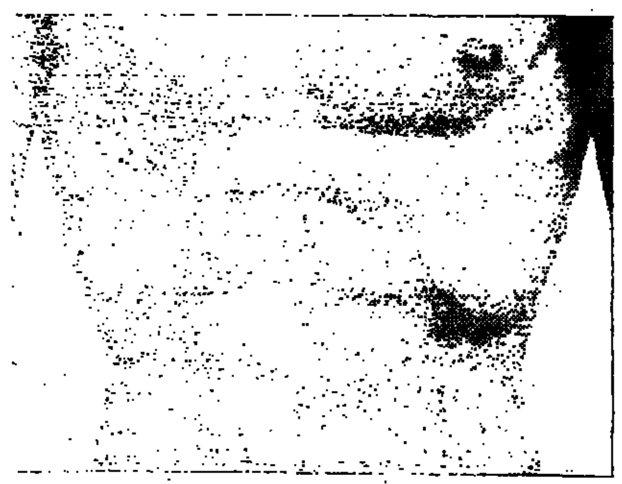
I can assure you this WILL NOT happen by doing any of the exercises in my 7 minute abdominal workout Video. With my Video you will quickly notice that your clothes fit better and your friends and family will likely comment on how good you look.



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...know for sure that you are doing each exercise properly. And you will know for sure that you are devoting the proper time to each exercise. And most important I will be right there guiding and encouraging you all the way. I promise I will flatten your pot belly and slim your midsection so quickly and easily that you won't believe your eyes. A firm, flat stomach makes you look and feel better. Your posture often improves and nagging back problems often disappear.

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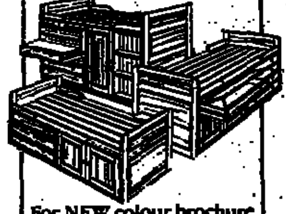

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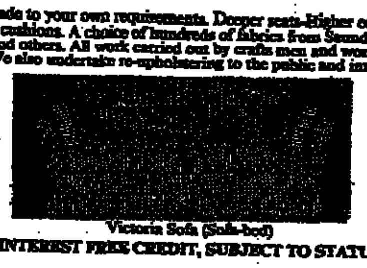

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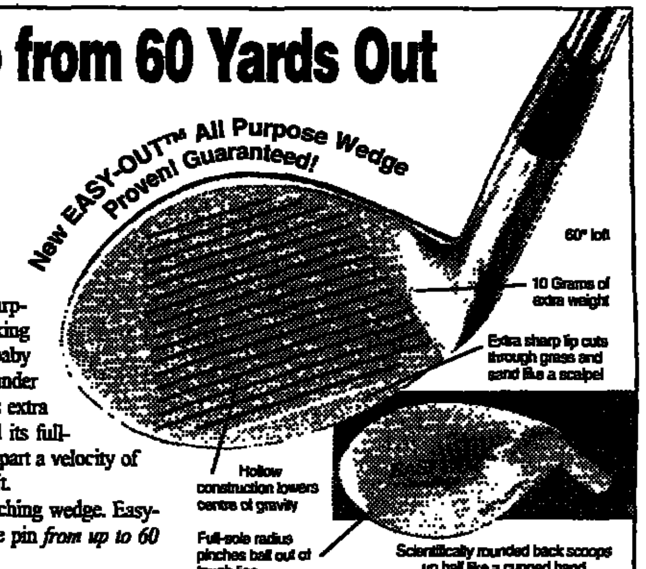

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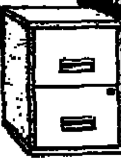

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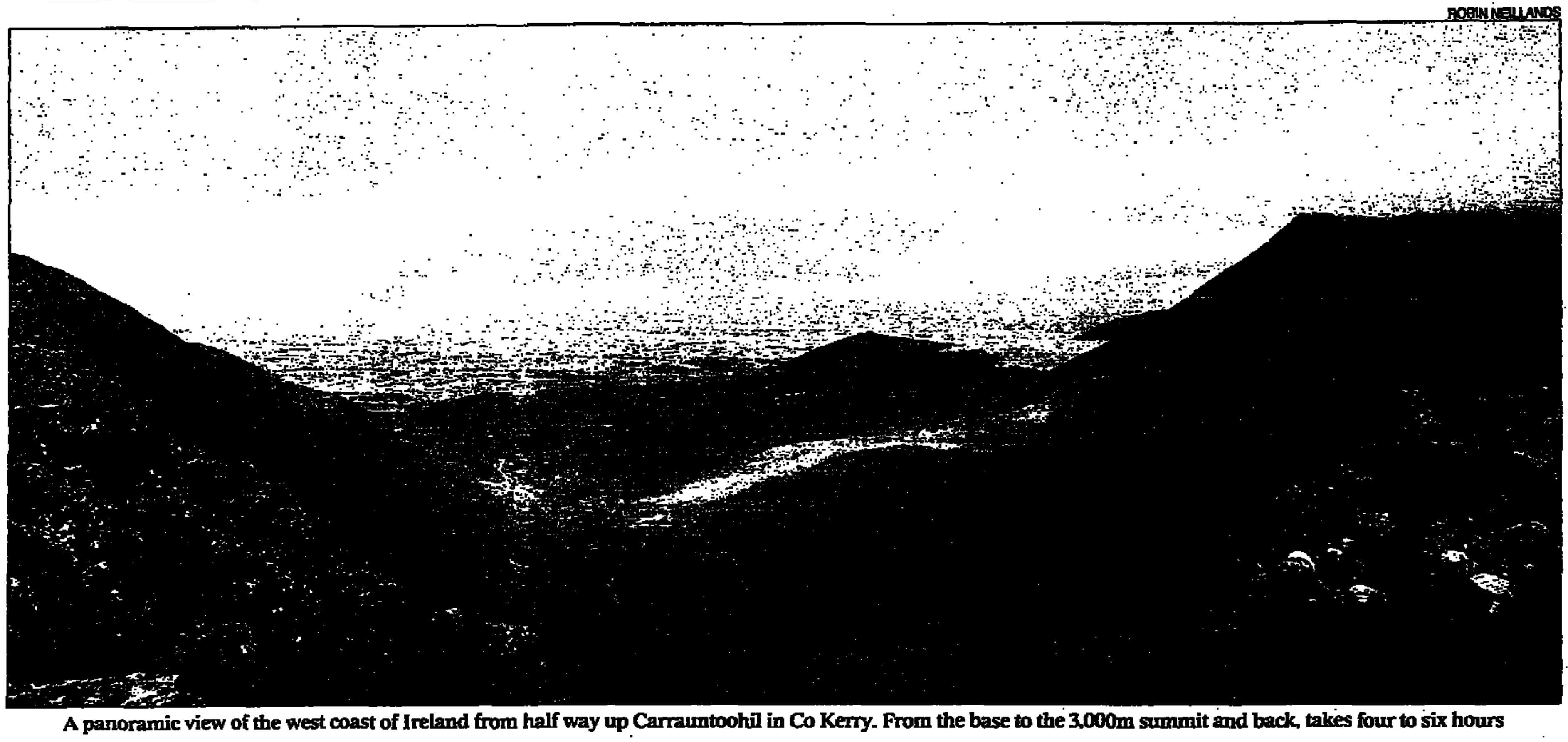
IRELAND AND WALES: Struggling up a mountain in Co Kerry and going down a mine in Gwynedd

ROBIN NEILLANDS



A panoramic view of the west coast of Ireland from half way up Carrauntoohil in Co Kerry. From the base to the 3,000m summit and back, takes four to six hours

Devil's way to the top

Whenever I walk across a country I have to climb the *highest peak that* lies along the way. This has long been a matter of principle and is one of the reasons why I avoid Nepal. I have been up Ben Nevis and Snowdon and the Mulhacen in Spain, so when I walked across Ireland I had to climb Carrauntoohil.

When I say "climb" I mean "walk". The nylon rope and piton are not for me; I can even get a bit unsteady on a stepladder. Fortunately, most mountains can be climbed the pretty way: up a footpath, and when you get to the top the views are just the same. Having said that, the views from Carrauntoohil depend on the weather; when it's good you can see the Ring of Kerry, the Purple Mountain, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and the glorious west coast of Ireland. The day I went up you could see for, well, yards.

Carrauntoohil is spelt in a number of ways, including Corran Tuathail, but at least you can pronounce it. Two neighbouring peaks are called *Cloughfauanglibbaun and* Knocknafreaghaun and are, therefore, avoided for that reason. If you can't say where you have been, what's the point of going there?

Carrauntoohil is not very high. It rises to about 1,000 metres (3,280ft). A notice in the car park at the bottom says that you can get to the top and back in four hours. That must be for an active goat wearing an aqualung. When I was there, the rain was coming down in stair rods, and I had a terrible cold. I had to hang about in a pub for four days waiting for decent weather, and became a martyr to hangovers. A day on the hill was just what I needed, but this particular day was the one I should have avoided.

Like most mountains, the way to the Carrauntoohil summit starts with the walk to "base camp". This was in a *farmyard, where I had an* encounter with an amorous donkey. The walk led beside a foaming stream to the Hags Glen. Here the rain was coming down horizontally, as they say round here, and the wind snatched my map away. This was not a problem, because I could see the mountain ahead, and the white scar on the face that had to be the Devil's Ladder. This was said to be the best way to the top, even if the name was a bit off-putting.

The next task was to cross the river Gaddagh, which was, of course, in spate. The ford under deep water so I crossed on some high but slippery rocks. Once across I found that the real river was further up, so I crossed back, using the ever-popular frantic leap method. Frantic leaps in soaking trousers are rarely successful; I fell short and into the river and suffered a sense-of-humour failure.

It is some measure of the weather that it was wetter out *of the river than in, but I* poured the Gaddagh out of my trousers and squelched on towards the Ladder. As I got closer I could make out specks moving slowly up and down the mountain side, a comforting indication that I was not the only fool on the hill that day.

I could also see that the *Ladder* was an almost vertical rock and scree slope, with a stream running down it. Falling water was throwing drifts of spray across the rock and I could see no obvious way up. On a dry day, climbing the Ladder might be no more than a gentle scramble. On a wet day the Ladder doubles as a waterfall. Every time I grabbed a rock, a stream of muddy water shot up my sleeve and small stones and large rocks came bouncing past my head, to add a little terror to the day. I do not exaggerate. The Devil's Ladder is not the North Face of the Eiger — it only felt like it.

The only way up any steep path is to pick the easiest route, take short steps and keep going. This method eventually got me to a grassy plateau where an Irish family were having a picnic. This was on a terrible day and in a "one hand for the egg sandwich, and one hand for yourself", sort of spot. But then, the Irish can be like that.

"Thank God that's over," I said, flopping on the grass. "Could I ask you to take my photograph?"

"You are not at the top yet," I was told. "It's another 40 minutes to the summit."

It took a bit of doing, but I managed not to break down.

From the top of the Devil's Ladder a winding track led up and away into the cloud. Off I plodded, up and up... and up, meeting cheery types who shrieked, "Keep going", or "Only another hour" and other encouraging phrases as they bounded past.

The last pitch to the summit leads over a number of false crests. It was now growing dark. I was beginning to despair of ever reaching level ground again when out of the mist loomed a large, green, metal cross, with just enough light left for my "Been there, done that" picture. All I had to do now was get down.

It is well known in walking circles that going down is often worse than going up. Seen from the top the Devil's Ladder looked steep and nasty but if I had any sense I wouldn't be doing this at my age and, anyway, we laugh at danger on the travel pages.

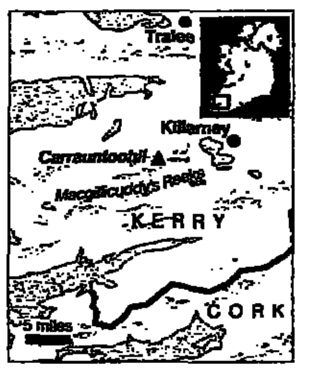
I poured a stream of muddy water *out of my* boots, wrung out my socks and put them on again, set off down the hill... and it went like a dream. I was past caring.

Two hours later I was back in the pub, steaming gently by the fire and telling lies.

For the moment, the truth lies in the statistics: distance to the summit and back, perhaps four miles. Time taken: six hours. State on return: wrinkled all over, like a prune.

Climbing Carrauntoohil is a great walk, but I'd choose a sunny day if I were you.

ROBIN NEILLANDS



Carrauntoohil fact file

☐ Carrauntoohil stands on the Iveragh peninsula of Co Kerry, southwest Ireland, close to the town of Kilgobnet. The nearest big town is Killarney. Bed and breakfast accommodation is widely available around Kilgobnet from I£15 (£14) per night.

☐ *Full details of holidays and walking* routes in the west of Ireland are available from the Bord Failte, The Irish Tourist Board, 150 New Bond Street, London, W1Y OAQ (0171-493 3201).

Illuminating a golden age

Members of the Royal Family who defy the actuarial odds and embark on matrimony will qualify for wedding rings fashioned from gold extracted at the Gwynfynydd mine. The rest of us must probably settle for a three-hour guided tour of this historic Welsh warren.

Welsh gold has been used in royal wedding rings for generations and a one-kilogram ingot from the mine in the Meirionnydd district of Gwynedd was presented to the Queen in 1986 to mark her 60th birthday.

Celtic princes wore gold torques around their necks as a symbol of their rank, and early writers in the Welsh language tell of chieftains who rode in chariots of gold. Hillsides here are honeycombed with shafts dug by invading Romans in the first century.

The metal was discovered in Gwynfynydd at the height of the Welsh gold rush in the middle of the last century. Since the mine reopened in 1992, *more than* 2,000 ounces of gold have been recovered. However, it takes two tonnes of ore to produce one ounce of gold, which is why the owners of Gwynfynydd have diversified into tourism.

Visits begin and end at the new Gold Centre in Dolgellau. In the 18th century the town was the focus of a prosperous wool industry and classic Welsh cloth, flannel and tapestries are still woven here.

The granite-grey town nestles in spectacular surroundings on the southern edge of the Snowdonia National Park. In autumn, the gold underground is matched by the splendour of the hillside foliage. In winter, snow simplifies the landscape into a monochrome grandeur. Charles Darwin once said of Cader Idris, whose peak at 2,927ft presides over the area: "Old Cader is a grand fellow."

A minibus takes visitors from Dolgellau to the mine along tracks winding *through* valleys *that* descend to white-water streams. On the way, you pass Cymer Abbey, where a 12th-century charter accorded monks "the right in digging or carrying away metals and treasures free from secular exaction".

On arrival, visitors are kitted out in protective clothing. Lamps are clipped to hard hats and heavy batteries hung on belts. Steel doors slammed ominously behind us to prevent mountain walkers straying into the mine during blasting. Quickly, we learnt to tilt our heads to direct the beams from helmet lamps into *the surrounding* gloom. When our guide alluded to some quartz above us, the tunnel roof was suddenly illuminated by beams from a dozen lamps.

At one stage, parties are invited to switch off their lamps so that they can sample the darkness in which early miners, equipped only with candles, for which they were charged by niggardly employers, would have spent their ten-hour shifts.

Thanks to constant demand, particularly from expatriates intent on carrying off an 18-carat chunk of the land of their fathers, Gwynfynydd gold retails at about three times the price of that on the London bullion market.

At the end of their tour, visitors can watch craftsmen creating jewellery in the Gold Centre. All the metal mined here is used in this way.

Toxic chemicals which are normally employed in the extraction of gold are shunned at Gwynfynydd. Waste rock is packed into old workings so *that* there is *no* unsightly surface dumping. Even the water pumped from the mine is treated to remove impurities before being returned to the nearby river.

During the tour, we were given a lesson in panning for gold in a trough of water containing low-grade ore. Visitors can keep all that glistens. More than 50 tourists have *struck lucky since the mine* opened to the public in 1993.

One woman is said to have found a nugget about the size of half a fingernail. Gold rushes and tourist attractions thrive on such tidings.

ALAN ROAD

Two rings fashioned at Gwynfynydd's Gold Centre

● *The author was a guest of the Welsh Gold Centre (01341 423332). Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm. Visitors are advised to book in advance. The mine is not suitable for wheelchairs or children under four. Tours £9.50, senior citizens £7.50, children £5.*

Win a weekend break, page 24

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 25

HAKENKREUZ
(c) The Nazi swastika, German for the crooked cross. A Hindu emblem used by Kipling, abused by Hitler.

MOJO
(c) An addict's name for any narcotic drug, especially morphine. US druggy slang. Origin unknown.

KERGUELEN
(c) The name of a group of islands in the southern Indian Ocean, used attributively as in *Kerguelen cabbage*, a cabbage-like plant of a disgusting taste, *Pringlea antiscorbutica*, of the family Cruciferae, which is confined to several islands in this region. "The Kerguelen's Land cabbage, cabbage though it be, is a cherished object in the recollection of the mariner."

MEHARI
(a) An Arabian, single-humped camel, used for riding, from the classical Arabic *mahrī* of Mahra, a province in South Arabia. R. Hichens, Garden of Allah, 1904: "'He who smokes the keef is like a mehari with a swollen tongue,' he rejoined."

From Santiago de Compostela to Salamanca

We commence our journey as have many millions of pilgrims before us at the magnificent city of Santiago de Compostela, where for two days we explore the cathedral, with its wonders of Romanesque and medieval architecture and the town itself. The road to Compostela was one of the three great journeys for the medieval pilgrim, the others being Rome and Jerusalem. From the 10th century onwards, thousands of men and woman flocked to the shrine of St James, and over the years the pilgrim roads had a deep influence on the art and culture of northern Spain.

From Santiago we drive south through Galicia through Vigo to Braga in the Minho district of Portugal and on to Oporto where we join the MV Lady May for a seven-night cruise along the beautiful River Douro.

Each port of call offers the unexpected and unusual whether it is the finely decorated tiled murals of the station at Pinhao or the dramatic church at Lamego. Throughout the region we will encounter Roman bridges, cathedrals and castles - the raising and lowering of the locks bearing us along the river are an engineering marvel too.

After disembarking at Oporto we travel east through this magnificent country, passing famous battle sites of Wellington and Napoleon at Rodrigo and enter Spain and Extremadura and the city of Salamanca with its unusual twin cathedral and cloisters where we spend the following two days. We then proceed to Avila, the city of the mystics St Teresa and St John of the Cross before continuing to Madrid for a short visit.

Itinerary

Day 1 Depart in the early evening from Gatwick to Santiago de Compostela with Iberian Airlines on a 727. The flight will take approx. 2 hours. Stay two nights.

Day 2 A leisurely day exploring the town of Santiago de Compostela: visit the magnificent cathedral, one of the wonders of Romanesque and medieval architecture.

Day 3 We drive south from Santiago crossing over into Portugal and stopping for lunch at Braga. The old town of Braga is ancient and compact with no fewer than twelve churches. Continue to Oporto and embark on the Lady May.

A journey from Spain to Portugal including a week's cruise on the beautiful River Douro

11 nights from £1295.00

Days 4 - 9 After a morning's sightseeing in Oporto, cross the Douro to visit the port lodges. Return to the vessel for lunch and depart for Entre-os-Rios. The cruise continues upstream with visits to Peso da Regua, Lamego, Tua, Barca d'Alva, Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo, Almeida, Sao Jose da Pesqueira, Sao Salvador do Mundo and Pinhao before returning to Oporto.

Day 10 Disembark and travel by road to Salamanca for a two-night stay. Salamanca has been famous as a seat of learning since the University was founded in the 13th century by Alfonso IX.

Day 11 Our sightseeing in Salamanca will include the University buildings and quadrangles, the twin Cathedral and cloisters and Plaza Mayor, one of the most beautiful squares in Spain.

Day 12 Drive to Avila where we take lunch before continuing to Madrid to connect with the evening Iberian Airlines 727 flight to London Gatwick (approx. 2 hours).

The MV Lady May

Voyages Jules Verne are the pioneers in introducing the concept of the hotel ship along the Douro River. Constructed in Holland in 1992 and operating under the British flag, the MV Lady May has the capacity for 160 guests in twin cabins, all of which are facing outwards.

This cruise vessel meets all of the requirements of the European Internal Waterways Navigation Inspectorate. The Lady May is fully air-conditioned, with a sundeck, lounge, bar and a one-sitting dining room. In addition there are limited shop and library facilities. The cabins are spread over 3 decks and all have private toilet and shower facilities.

Departure Dates & Prices

Thursdays - per person twin/main deck

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per person

Single	£300
Middle Deck	£125
Lounge Deck	£175

Price includes: flights, transfers, hotel accommodation on bed and breakfast, 7 nights on the MV Lady May with full board, excursions, services of local guides. Not included: insurance, airport taxes, tips. All prices are subject to change.

Itineraries may be operated in a different sequential order to the one shown according to local river conditions and in order to avoid congestion at particular sites.

Madrid Extension

Spend an extra two nights in Madrid at the 3-star Arosa Hotel, or similar, on bed and breakfast for £98 per person in a twin (£42 single supplement).

Spend a Week on the River Douro

We are also offering a straight 7-night cruise along the River Douro, flying from London on Day 3 of the above itinerary and following the same routing, returning by air on Day 10. Tariff from £795. Please contact us for full information.

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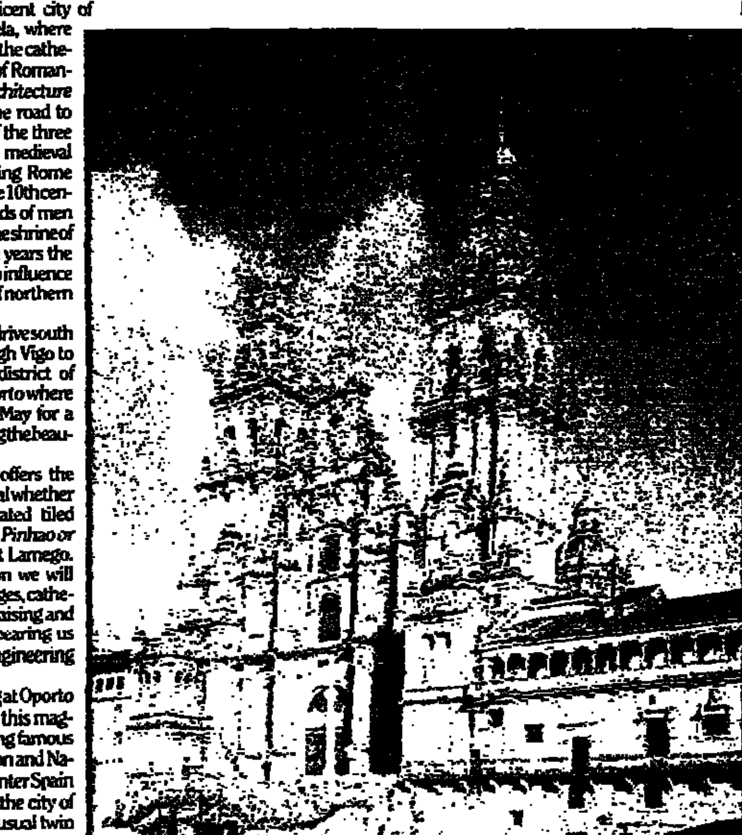

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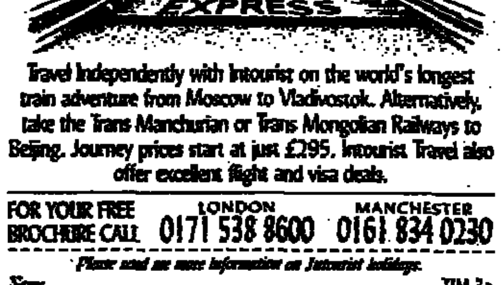

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SKIING: **Alastair Brett's** glasses steam up on a singles holiday, and **Doug Sager** gives a safety warning

Sloping off alone on a downward track

My wife and I last went skiing six years ago. By then she had decided that "not being able to stop" was a problem, even on those sky-blue days when the sun sparkles on the snow, the panorama is breathtaking and the silence of the piste is pure magic.

Her decision not to ski again was a relief: early morning reconnoitreing to find the gentlest of blue runs and the endless wait for her to catch up were beginning to take their toll. So this time, with her blessing, I was off on a singles-type holiday to Verbier.

Verbier, at 1,500m, is one of those up-market Swiss resorts where the British have skied for years. Much of its old-world charm has gone and these days it is a huge sprawl of large chalets with fashion shops, parked Range Rovers and expensive furs.

A favourite with keen skiers, its four valleys are linked with the resorts of Nendaz, Thyon 2000, Veysonnaz and La Tzoumaz. The 400km of piste and trails comprise 40 per cent for novices (green/blue runs), 42 per cent for intermediate skiers (red runs) and the remaining 18 per cent for experts (black runs).

Many of the lower, north-facing slopes among the trees at Savoleyres, Nendaz and Thyon are a pure pleasure to ski given good snow. The higher, barer slopes above Verbier, from the steep, black mogul fields at the summit of Mont-Fort (more than 3,000m) to the more gentle red runs down to La Chaux, demand a variety of techniques.

Queueing at some lifts in high season is inevitable, particularly at bottlenecks, such as Tortin, but one of Verbier's advantages is that it is only 170km from Geneva airport, about two hours by car or coach up into the Alps.

For genuine singles the large Clarmont Chalet is likely to be first choice because it has so many single rooms. But the smaller, cosier La Diure chalet was where I found myself with six other young professionals in their thirties.

Our chalet girl, Maddy, had travelled extensively and could ruin a waistline in seconds with her wonderful creamy cakes in the afternoon and gallons of wine with the meal in the evening.

On the first day, the Bladon Lines' ski guides, Richard and Allen, showed clients of intermediate to advanced level around the slopes. This was a good way to meet people from other chalets, from a tank fitter at Vickers to a couple of chatty school teachers from Surrey.

The packed lunches came out at midday, high up on a sunny ridge above Thyon, with panoramic views towards the Matterhorn.

On the second day, I decided to take up the Ski Club of Great Britain's offer of a free day's skiing with their rep over the Four Valleys. The Ski Club has reps in 34 of the main resorts around Europe. They are all proficient skiers, who provide a friendly face for British skiers and help to guide people around the slopes. After trying a day's skiing, you are asked if you would like to join the club — £41 for those living out of London and £44-£45 for those in the London area. For this, a member has the opportunity to ski with the club's reps throughout their holiday, and to benefit from an extensive information service about resorts, snow conditions and discounts on holidays and ski equipment.

I spent the last two days skiing with the others from my chalet, a mix of intermediate to advanced skiers. We skied together on most of the runs in the area.

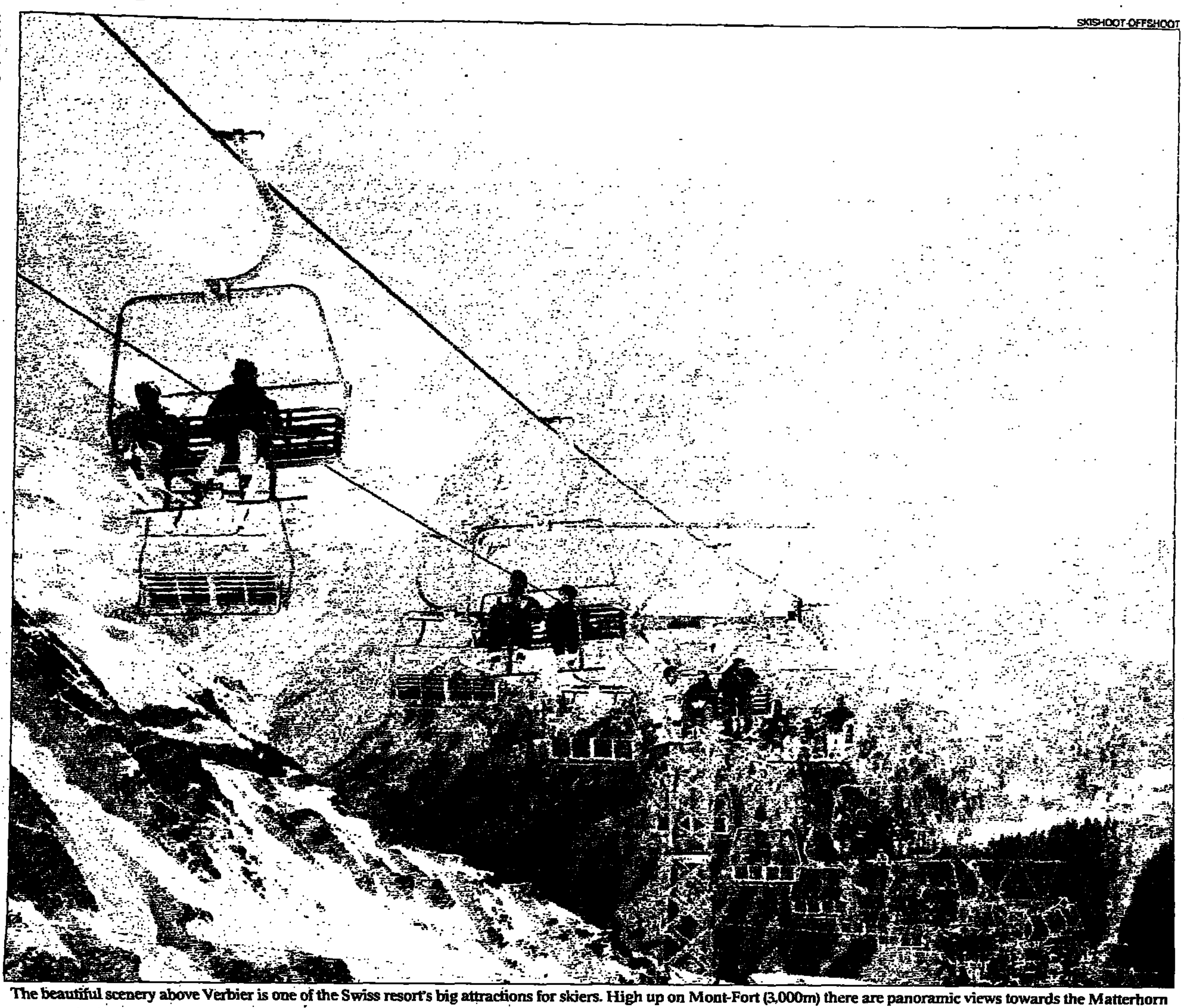
When it came to *après-ski*, the others, being more serious skiers and appreciating the need for rest, left me to my own devices.

I soon found out that on Mondays all the tour company reps and chalet girls decamp to Tara's nightclub, which becomes a "heaving sweaty mass" on the dance floor late in the evening. I decided to give this a miss.

Next on the list of watering holes was the Mont-Fort pub. Within seconds of walking in my glasses steamed up and I was unable to locate any of the ski fanatics I was expecting to be there.

Leaving the Mont-Fort, I plodded down to the place not to miss in Verbier — the Farm, the internationally known and hugely expensive nightclub. I arrived at 11.20pm but the place was virtually deserted. The kindly doormen, sensing a novice, advised me to come back later when things were "in full swing, between 12.30 and 1am".

With a well-concealed sigh of relief, I decided to leave it to the minor royals and jet-setters to burn the candle at both endson this occasion.


SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT

The beautiful scenery above Verbier is one of the Swiss resort's big attractions for skiers. High up on Mont-Fort (3,000m) there are panoramic views towards the Matterhorn

Fact file

☐ The author was guest of Bladon Lines, 56/58 Putney High Street, London SW15 1SF (0181-785 3131) and the Verbier Tourist Office.

☐ He stayed in Verbier at La Diure chalet: £369 per person full chalet board for one week, including flights and transfers from Geneva. But look for special offers or less expensive chalets, such as Tom Kitten, or Clarmont Chalet with its single rooms.

☐ The Verbier ski pass costs £153 for six days (not including Mont-Fort). Hire of standard skis for six days £60, boots £31. Two hours' ski school instruction over five days £55. Insurance for a week £31.

☐ The Ski Club of Great Britain (0171-245 1033).

Safety on the piste

THE combined effects of public holidays around Europe and a major snowfall make the coming week the most crowded on the Alps. It is a case of the survival of the safest, so follow these guidelines taken from the International Ski Federation rules for the conduct of skiers.

1. **Respect for others:** a skier must behave in such a way that others are not endangered or prejudiced.
2. **Control of speed and skiing:** a skier must adapt his speed and manner of skiing to his personal ability and to the conditions of terrain, snow and weather, and the density of traffic.
3. **Choice of route:** a skier coming from behind must choose his route in such a way that he does not endanger skiers ahead.
4. **Overtaking:** a skier may overtake another skier above or below and to the right or the left, provided that he leaves enough space for the overtaken skier to make any voluntary or involuntary movement.
5. **Entering and starting:** a skier entering a marked run or starting again after stopping must ensure that the run is clear of others.
6. **Stopping on the piste:** a skier must avoid stopping on the piste in narrow places or where visibility is restricted. After a fall in such a place, a skier must move clear of the piste as soon as possible.
7. **Climbing and descending on foot:** a skier on foot must keep to the side of the piste.
8. **Respect for signs and markings:** a skier must respect all of these.
9. **Assistance:** at accidents, every skier is bound to assist.
10. **Identification:** every skier and witness must exchange names and addresses after an accident.

● *The Ski Club of Great Britain (0171-245 1033) has a safety sheet explaining the FIS rules in detail.*

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هكذا فن الرحل

NORWAY: The Victorians dangled the bait — now the Namsen river is a magnet for anglers worldwide

Where the river runs wild

We were in central Norway, about 100 miles north of Trondheim, once Norway's capital and where Viking Olav Tryggvason governed the Norwegian empire in 997. Trondheim is a beautiful city. It is a port of call for the world's cruise ships before they venture farther north in search of the midnight sun. Shore excursions take passengers to view the 11th-century Nidaros Cathedral where the kings of Norway are crowned.

A South African couple from the *Canberra* were overcome by the beauty of the fjords. Later, though, we met an Australian coach party who vowed never to return, for they had not seen the sun at midday let alone midnight.

Just outside the small town of Grong is one of the most thrilling sights any salmon angler could wish to see. The mighty Namsen river, famous for yielding monstrous salmon of 40, 50 and even 60lb, turns gracefully on a meander 100 *yards wide and rushes into* a tantalising tail before turning white and bubbly to form the neck of another pool. It continued swirling and chattering in a language only a salmon angler understands.

"I scarcely dare describe the feelings with which I approached Spillum, the first stage from Bangsund, and where I knew I should obtain the first view of the Namsen," wrote the Rev William Belton in *Two Summers in Norway*, published in 1840.

"The very first glance satisfied me. I had at last reached the real river for an angler: a deep, broad stream rolled majestically into a beautiful bay, that in its turn opened into a noble fjord."

The jewel in this Namsen crown is the cottage of Per Olav Moum, owner and boatman of its superb beat of water. Moum farmhouse was built by his great-grandfather *in 1891. It only exists because* an Englishman called Frank Dugdale, who had been renting the fishing, decided, as Victorian sportsmen did, that he must have a home overlooking the river.

The house has changed little since it was built. As you enter the musty atmosphere, there is a feeling of welcome, as though at any moment gentlemen in Harris tweeds and *plus fours will greet you with a* whisky and soda. The rooms, with their exposed floorboards and pine panelling, echo to *your footsteps. The walls carry* wooden carvings of 50lb salmon, and all around are the memories: photographs mainly, but as you keep walking you feel more and more that *you have stepped back in time.* The master bedroom still has its iron and brass beds and a Victorian wash-stand. Next door is the bathroom with its original roll-top bath in which many a fisherman will have soaked away the aches and pains of wrestling Namsen salmon to the shore.

Only the kitchen has been modernised, but not too much. The fridge, still working perfectly, *dates from the 1950s. In* the tackle room there is the greatest discovery of all. Fishing rods sent here not long *after the turn of the century* lie in their packing crates, marked "Newcastle to Bergen". In another box, fly cases and wallets stuffed with Durham Rangers, Mar Lodges and Silver Doctors. And in a *trunk lie* Hardy reels, some still carrying their silk lines. So heavy were they that you needed two hands to pick them *up to reveal the owner's name:* "Bainbridge, Espley Hall Morpeth."

George Bainbridge was a *businessman who founded a* department store in Newcastle. He fished the Namsen for more than 25 years, ending *in the 1930s, and his son* continued in his footsteps until 1956. Well into his eighties, Mr Bainbridge still travelled to Grong to fish his beloved river. Hardly able to walk, he brought two nurses to take care of him. Each day he was carried into the boat but, at the age of 87, he caught a 57lb salmon.

Today fishermen from all over the world travel here to *do battle with the great fish.* For £500 a day you too could take this beat, with the services of Per Olav as a boatman, and stay in the old house. Christian ChefdeVille, a Frenchman living in Budapest, has been making the trip for the past 17 years. His dream to catch a big salmon on a fly hasn't materialised. "I hope I'm getting closer and I think I will come back here until I get the big one."

Myfi Heim, on the other hand, a petite English lady from London, has taken only four years to land her fish of a lifetime. It weighed 44lb and took nearly two hours to gaff. "I like to stalk it. I like to hook *it, kill it and have it on the* table — that's why I fish."

And then there was Richard Flasch from Vienna, member *of the International Game* Fish Association, who holds many world records and is a wonderfully funny man, is petrified of his French friend's driving. "Alain Prost in disguise," said Richard. We thought the same as he drove us at breakneck speed to sample the delights of another much smaller salmon river, the Argard. That was when we lost Richard. He went to try out one of the 14 rods he'd brought with him and disappeared for two hours.

As we set up our own 15ft Viking fly rod, made by Bruce and Walker, Richard pounced on it to admire its construction. You felt he would be happy to add it to his collection.

Americans were also *in town, in the shape* of John Armstrong from Connecticut. He was not a happy man. After a week's fishing his score was zero. His trip had cost him well over $4,000 (£2,700) and he was beginning to wonder if there were any fish in the river at all, although his friend had managed a 31-pounder on a Red Bomber bought in the local tackle shop. "It's time to ask questions in Oslo," said John. "There seems to be an ambivalence on the part of the authorities, who are more related to ocean fishing and netting than the sports fisherman." John would be writing to the Norwegian Fisheries *Minister.*

Norway is expensive and is not noted for its food. However, during our two-night stay at the Royal Garden Hotel in Trondheim we ate delicious fish soup, followed by a dish of catfish, prawns and salmon. There was also fillet of reindeer and a pudding of wild cloudberries and cream. With a bottle of wine (£18 a bottle) dinner for two came to about £60.

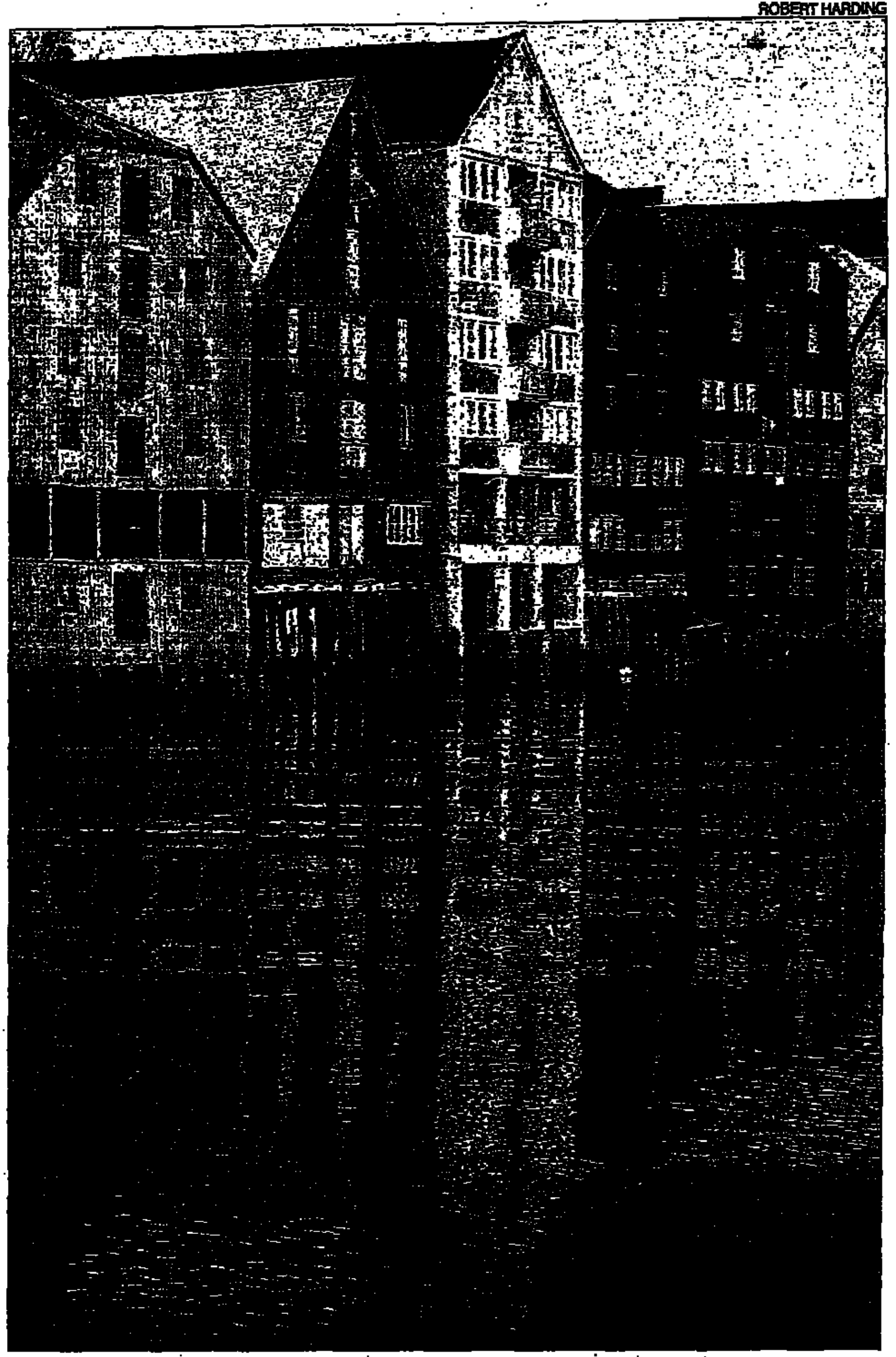
And then there was the great Norwegian breakfast. Puffed wheat, muesli, dried *fruit* and raisins, yogurts, Norwegian flat bread, coleslaw, mountains of scrambled eggs, sausages, pâté, ham and *salami. On another* serve-yourself counter were herrings, sardines, boiled eggs, Jarlsberg cheese, fruit juices, *hot chocolate, coffee or tea.* A huge jug of waffle mix was on tap for the waffle iron and everyone made their own.

For the remaining five days the Vertshuset Hotel in Grong took care of our every need. About £100 a day got you full board and lodging and the same high standard of food. Reindeer turned up again and, of course, salmon, salmon and more salmon. The rooms were more than comfort*able* (but no bath only a shower) and the owner, Jon Ivar Moe, went out of his way to cater for *fishermen.*

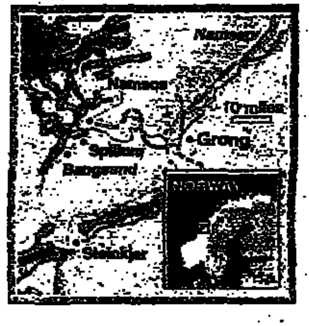
With a 21lb salmon in the bag, caught after half an hour of exhilarating play on a Thunder and Lightning tube fly, a grilse (a small salmon) and a fish hooked but not *landed, we had lost our hearts* to the Queen of Rivers. We caught our fish in the very arena those early Victorian *sportsmen knew* so well. The miracle is that the playground still beckons for those who need to satisfy a desire to hunt the silver salmon.

KEITH ALLAN

ROBERT HARDING



Land of the midnight sun: picturesque Trondheim was once Norway's capital



Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Braathens, which flies from Newcastle and Gatwick to Bergen, Oslo and Stavanger with a connecting flight to Trondheim. Cost from £232 from Newcastle, £244 from Gatwick.
For details: 0191-214 0991.

☐ Angling holidays arranged by NORSC Holidays (01297 560033).

☐ The Moum Farmhouse (00) 47 7433 2122.

☐ Hotels: Royal Garden Hotel, Trondheim — (00) 47 7352 1100. Vertshuset Hotel, Grong, will also arrange fishing trips on the Namsen. Cost: about £300 per day for full board and lodging including fishing and the use of a gillie — (00) 47 7433 1366.

☐ Time to go: June to August. The midnight sun is visible from 12 May to 1 August.

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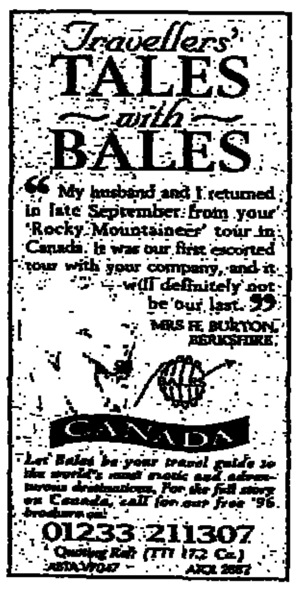

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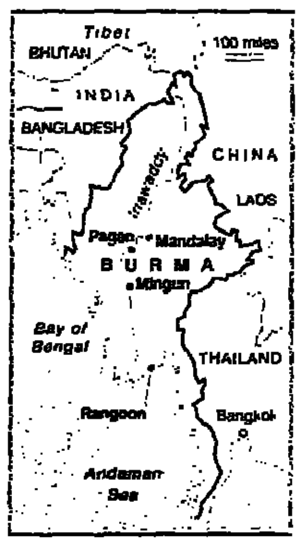
BURMA: **Peter Hughes**, in reflective mood, cruises down the Irrawaddy and discovers a new Nile

On the new boat from Mandalay

COLORIFIC

A humble wooden boat ferries locals across the Irrawaddy against the backdrop of an ancient pagoda — a scene that greets passengers luxuriating aboard the *Road to Mandalay*



Should ships, like sheep, ever be declared "sentient beings", spare a thought for the feelings of the *M.S. Nederland*. She is in shock. Two years ago she was an unsuspecting hotel ship, berthed at Dresden on the River Elbe in Germany and settled into semi-retirement after 30 years' service as a cruiser on the Rhine. Today she is in the Far East, starring in what promises to be the year's most spectacular and controversial holiday production.

Plucked from Europe and anonymity, and transported halfway round the world on the marine equivalent of a low-loader, she has a new name and a new career. The *Nederland* is now the *Road to Mandalay*, registered in Yangon and flying the flag of Myanmar as she operates champagne-style cruises on the River Ayeyarwady in one of the ten poorest nations on earth.

It is not just the ship which has undergone a change of identity. The river is still better known by its previous name, the Irrawaddy; Yangon was Rangoon and Myanmar is what we are now expected to call Burma. "Visit Myanmar Year" — which this is — would be all the more persuasive if people knew where it is.

James B. Sherwood knows. He is the buccaneer American businessman who brought us the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and is responsible for the *Nederland's* makeover. To help the rest of us to find our way to Burma, he has posted young men in maroon *longyis* (sarong) with "Road to Mandalay" placards all the way from Thailand to the gangplank of the ship. They are in Bangkok airport at the Myanmar Airways check-in, in Rangoon to shepherd passengers through immigration to their Air Mandalay connection, and in Mandalay to steer them to where the ship is moored.

This month, Mr Sherwood was at the top of the gangplank to greet his guests for the inaugural cruise. They might have been the cast from an Edwardian novel: a prince and two princesses from the Endsleigh League of European royalty, our own much-travelled Princess Michael of Kent among them; a duke; a *marches* and *marchesé*; a film star, Helena Bonham Carter; and assorted lords and ladies, whose names tended to be the same as their addresses. When someone referred to a lady friend it could have been a title or a position.

Those without titles merely had money. A woman returning to a sightseeing bus with a parcel of lacquerware explained to her husband where it might go: "This is not for Monaco or Barbados or London but it could be perfect for Hong Kong or Majorca."

Their first experience of the river was not on the *Road to Mandalay* but aboard a tubby local passenger ferry chartered by Orient-Express to make the hour-and-a-half journey upstream to Mingun. Under the shelter of a green tin roof, wicker chairs had been arranged in outward facing lines on the upper deck from which to inspect the passing country. It was like travelling in a cricket pavilion.

Mingun would have had the largest Buddhist pagoda in the world had the Burmese equivalent to Mad King Ludwig managed to complete it. Instead, it possesses one of the largest piles of bricks in the world, which you can climb with a local child taking your hand. At the bottom the companionship is expected to be repaid with a soft drink, though the 11-year-old boy who befriended me appeared to expect a can of lager.

Only in the past few years have the doors to Burma been more than ajar. Visas now run for four weeks instead of seven days, and the country is promoting itself. Yet even at Rangoon's great, gilded Shwedagon pagoda the visitors are nearly all Burmese.

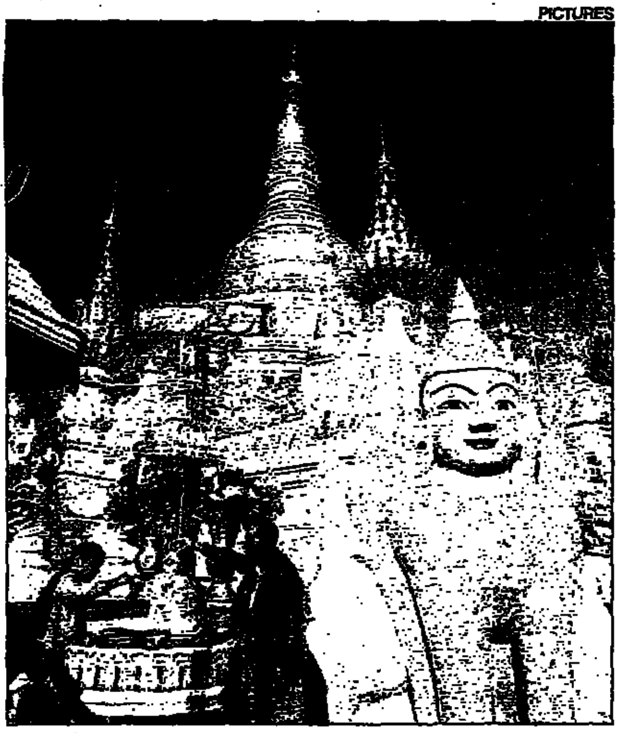
This is that rare moment in a developing tourist country when the Western visitor can still feel he or she has the country to themselves. It will not last; new hotels are going up faster than monks' umbrellas; Air Mandalay is a new, Singapore-based domestic airline. However fanciful, Visit Myanmar Year has a target of half a million visitors.

The country is governed by a military dictatorship, a remnant of a ruthless and capricious regime whose tyrannies were catalogued by both the United Nations and Amnesty International. Optimists look at the amount of investment going into Burma as evidence of improvement.

Mr Sherwood, who has so far spent $14 million (about £9 million) in setting up the *Road to Mandalay*, was invited by the Government to start the cruises. He is guaranteed no competition at the five-star end of the market for five years.

Naturally he takes a charitable, if not Nelsonian, view of the regime: "My problem is I don't know what the human rights abuses are. I haven't been able to discover them."

PICTURES



Awaiting tourists: Rangoon's gilded Shwedagon pagoda

The generals who run the Government he describes as "young, very able people who seem to be totally dedicated to improving the country. Since taking over in 1989 they have maintained 8 per cent growth per annum. That is very impressive".

At 333ft, the *Road to Mandalay* is the largest vessel the Irrawaddy has ever seen. At this time of year, before the Himalayan snows melt and the river rises nearly 40ft, these are tricky waters. They may be a quarter of a mile wide, but there is only the narrowest trench deep enough for the ship's draught. She moves, therefore, imperturbably in a series of serene zigzags like a courtly pinball following a course marked more clearly in the Burmese captain's memory than by the occasional bamboo stick. Even then the channel may have shifted when she returns upstream in a week's time. In the tightest reaches a boat is sent ahead to take soundings.

On either side the flood plain stretched flat and torpid, one moment a sort of tropical Broads with flashes of green paddy and stands of trees, the next a semi-desert where the river lapped broad sand beaches. A stillness settled on the scene like haze, the only movement being the occasional slow progress of bicycles and bullock carts along the banks.

The activity was all on the water. Boats big as arks transported passengers on their upper decks, cargo below; barges loaded with teak placed men at their bows to take continuous soundings with long poles; fishing skiffs with gondola prows were skulled by men standing in the stern, oars crossed like knitting needles. At the villages, women at the water's edge battered clean their laundry with wooden paddles before laying it to dry in lines as orderly as medal ribbons.

On the ship, a viscount, his arm unexpectedly tattooed, was in the swimming pool while Princess Michael, wearing lemon, performed ostentatious cadenzas on a laptop computer. They were on the upper observation deck, whose teak planks run almost the length of the vessel between a bar in the stern and the wheelhouse.

By day, the deck is a smart yacht-club veranda; by night, when the air is cool and the lights are soft, it's one of the best bars in Asia.

Below, in the air-conditioning, there is a piano bar and an observation lounge which becomes an auditorium when local entertainers come aboard; a folk show one night, puppeteers another. In the cabins there is monogrammed bed linen, Penhaligon toiletries and television. If the observation areas live up to their views and the cabins to their style, the dining room hardly does credit to the food. It looks more like an Indian restaurant from a provincial high street than a place serving fashionable West End fare.

Like every other ship on the Irrawaddy, we eventually ran aground. With a soft hiss of sand beneath the keel and a gentle lurch just enough to send the water from the swimming pool sloshing over aristocratic ankles, we came to rest on a sandbank. The ship can pump water from her ballast tanks to raise herself four inches; on this occasion her power was enough to wrench herself free.

About 120 miles downstream, the cruise ended at one of the world's great archaeological sites. At Pagan (now known as Bagan) between the 11th and 13th centuries the kings of Burma indulged in a fury of temple building until the rampaging armies of Kublai Khan brought the empire to an end. More than 2,000 stupas erupt out of a dusty scrub plain, some crumbling, others restored; most no more than sacred pimples, a few the size of cathedrals.

It was in this Lost World landscape, so intense and strange, that I recalled where I had experienced similar feelings — in Egypt, and there was a boat to return to at the end of those days, too. The *Road to Mandalay* has navigated a new Nile.

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Orient Express and Thai Airways International.

☐ Upstream cruises from Pagan to Mandalay, including a trip to Mingun, take six nights and cost £2,110 per person sharing a state cabin; £1,450 pp in a superior cabin; single cabins £1,610. Cruises downstream take five nights and cost, respectively, £1,860, £1,230 and £1,430. Both cruises include tours of Rangoon, Mandalay and Pagan, flights from Bangkok to Burma and within Burma, transfers, a hotel and dinner in Rangoon and meals on board. Flights to Thailand, airport taxes and visa fees are not included.

☐ Further information from Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, Sea Containers House, 20 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PF (0171-805 5100).

☐ Thai Airways International flies daily from Heathrow to Bangkok from £589 return. For details, call TAI in London on 0171-499 9113; Manchester, 0161-831 7861.

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☐ Magic of the Orient (01293 537700) offers three-night cruises from Thailand aboard a 17-metre wooden junk. Taking in Phang Nga Bay, Sea Gipsy village, Krabi and the Phi Phi islands, the trip costs £348 per person, based on two sharing. Departs most Saturdays and Tuesdays from Phuket. Flights not included.

☐ Six-day cruises along the Baltic coast with Moswin Tours (0116-271 9922) cost from £815 per person and include return flights from Heathrow to Hamburg, rail transfers and five nights' full board. Departs June 2, July 28, and August 7.

☐ Cruise alongside whales in the Southern Ocean between New Zealand and Tonga. The 13-day voyage with Explore Worldwide (01252 319448) costs £1,965 per person, including flights from London and a five-night hotel stay.

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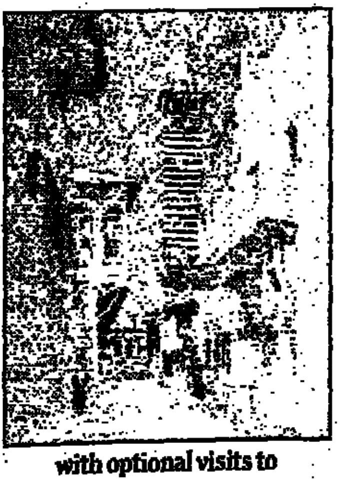

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GULF OF SALERNO: In a village near the sea, **Christena Appleyard** discovers the elusive real Italy

The palazzo of princely dreams

The tranquil gardens and pool at the Palazzo Belmonte, once a royal hunting lodge

There is a dream of Italy that is not the clogged tourist crowds of Venice, Florence or Rome. Nor is it the pricey, rural idyll of Tuscany *or the packed, burning beaches* of Viareggio. Rather it is the authentic, ancient grandeur of a way of life rooted in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

In this dream old palazzos in dense woodland slumber away the centuries. Courtyards are divided into blinding *sunlight and deep shadow*. Inside are the accumulations of the ages — worn stone staircases, darkened wood, curious paintings that just might be lost masterpieces. Outside, gardeners tend the grounds in the intense heat. *Meanwhile*, lunch slides into the lengthy siesta which then, effortlessly, becomes *dinner. Beyond* the walls the life of an old village continues — old men sitting around the fountain, teenagers strutting and an out-of-tune church bell clanging.

This is the dream of the real *Italy — secretive, remote* and replete with *mysterious* customs and traditions. Like every other such dream — the perfect English village, the authentic American West, the cute pastoral story of old Provence — it is under threat. The modern world intervenes. *Tourists discover these places* and turn them into parodies of their past. Once known they can *never* be unknown again and the dream is over.

The trick is not to keep the modern world out but to control it. And that is what Angelo, the Prince Belmonte, is trying to do.

The Palazzo Belmonte is 120km south of Naples. Finding it in a hire car from Naples airport is a testing but thrilling experience. One minute you are duelling with the battered Alfas and Fiats, struggling to *find your way south*, the next you are curving around the huge cliffs that plunge into Salerno. And then you leave the motorway and find yourself in a new, empty landscape dotted with small towns — Battipaglia, Agropoli and, finally, Santa Maria di Castellabate, *the home of the Prince* Belmonte.

Dipping down towards the sea you pass the long wall of his 17th-century palazzo; turn dangerously through its slightly too narrow gateway and there you are — the dense trees, the ancient walls, the gardeners, the lot. And later *you discover that a few yards* from the gate is the perfect village — old men, teenagers, life drifting by as it has done for centuries. This is Italy.

The prince, a tall, amiable, handsome figure straight out of an *Italian 1950s movie, has* turned his palazzo into a restrained resort. He has, wisely, tried to change as little as possible. Once it was a hunting lodge visited by the kings of Spain and Italy. Now it is a collection of self-catering apartments visited, overwhelmingly, *by the British*. Angelo, the present Prince Belmonte, has kept his own quarters but divided the rest of the building and the neighbouring "Edoardo's House" into 21 separate units that can take from two to eight guests. The conversion is understated. There are no sudden intrusions of plastic or the wrong wood into the architecture.

It does, however, have all the essential resort trappings. There is a swimming pool and a beach. *The pool is big enough to be* fun and small enough not to dominate the grounds. The *prince* fights a quiet running battle to keep out Lilos and to keep the pool and all the grounds as quiet as possible during the siesta. He doesn't quite succeed, but with the small number of guests and *the general air of peaceful* harmony, it hardly matters. No untoward yobbery is likely to disturb the Palazzo Belmonte.

The section of beach that belongs to the prince is small and somewhat rocky. The rest of the beach runs into the village. The buildings reach *down to the sand, and cafés* and modest restaurants crowd around the bathers. Overall the beach is not spectacular but it is friendly.

Self-catering is the idea and with the shops in Santa Maria this is simple. The palazzo does lay on meals. Dinner is worth it for the sleepy pleasure *of watching the sun go down* from the outside restaurant and the prince dining with his curious range of exotic guests. The food is OK and filling but not great.

All this should be enough to put you into a fairly deep trance for at least a few days. At some point, however, conscience or curiosity *should drive you out of the* immediate area. You can do this either by hire car or on private excur*sions arranged* by the palazzo.

The first thing is to drive up the mountain behind the village. Beware the road, a long run of sharp hairpins. At the top is another village, known simply as Castellabate. This is stunning: a cluster of buildings clinging precariously to the mountain top and with views over miles of coastline.

Other trips take more planning. Paestum to the north is *essential — a staggering, glori*ous collection of Greek temples and a wonderful museum. Then, of course, there are Pompeii and Herculaneum, the two Roman towns buried and preserved by an eruption of *Vesuvius. And you* can go up the volcano itself — a drive followed by a tough, steep walk but worth it. These all involve the two-hour drive back to Naples, so you need to commit a whole day for any or all of them.

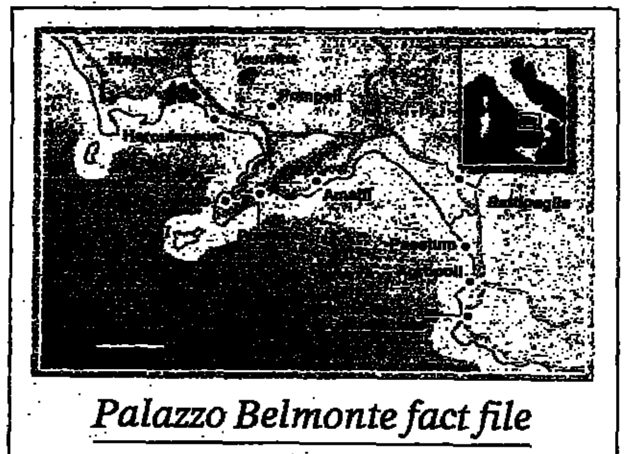
Finally, there is the whole Amalfi peninsula. This is *familiar holiday territory. The* towns of Amalfi, Positano and Sorrento and the island of Capri are more or less fixtures on the "Romantic Italy" map. For me they are too much, too touristy, too — after Santa Maria — obvious. But they are there and all within reach.

The point is that the Palazzo *Belmonte is what you make it* — the Italian dream or a peaceful base from which to explore the strange and extraordinary wonders of the whole of Naples and southwards.

The prince is performing a fine balancing act with his resort. It can no longer survive as a royal hunting lodge; *tourism is now the economic* game. He has decided to let in the tourists, but with immense care and a certain gentle authority. He complains good naturedly about any Lilos in the pool, just enough to preserve peace and decorum. And he has resisted any temptation to "do up" the place, which *would destroy its strong* feeling of continuity with the past.

It is a balancing act that a thousand other ancient places could copy. But they don't. They get discovered and slowly become just another stopover on the holiday map.

Check out the Palazzo Belmonte. There are few such places left.



Palazzo Belmonte fact file

☐ The author was a guest of C.V. Travel, 43 Cadogan Street, London SW3 2PR (0171-581 0851). One week in an apartment for four people at Palazzo Belmonte in May, June or September costs from £530 per person, and from £625 pp in July/August, including return flights to Naples with British Airways and transfers, but not including meals. Larger or smaller apartments are also available. Special off-season rates (May and October): four nights for the price of three, including car hire.

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SPAIN: Memories are made of bliss in an Andalucian cortijo; and a tour of design-conscious Barcelona

Straight from the mind's eye

The hypnotist who failed to wean me off smoking began each session the same way. Picture a blissful scene, he would say: a tropical beach, perhaps, or a picnic on the river bank. But I'd take my magic carpet off to southern Spain: a white-washed courtyard with a table set under the vine, and views over tumbling terracotta roofs of blue sky and olive grove-covered hills. It was a place in the mind's eye, of course, though not far-fetched. Behind high walls and massive oak-doored gateways there are plenty of such old cortijos in Andalucia. But short of marrying one's daughter to a sherry baron or a breeder of fighting bulls, few of them are open to the mere hispanophile.

Trasierra: not the least sense of being in a hotel

Yet here we were, on a warm October night, standing outside an iron-studded portal 20ft high set in a long white wall. An enormous dog whose ancestors must have gone into battle with El Cid ambled towards us.

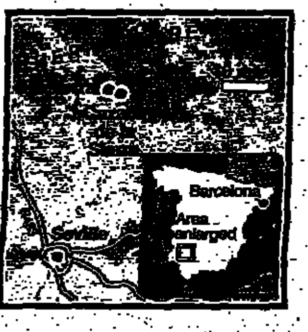
Two black turkeys guarding the entrance coughed crossly at us. The scent of eucalyptus made the head swim. For centuries, one thought, dust-stained travellers had stood here just like this, sniffing the wood smoke, eyeing the mastiffs and trusting in the ancient laws of Spanish hospitality to be let in unmauled.

Sure enough, a human-sized door set into the giant-sized door opened and out came our hostess and her children in welcoming procession. On cue, Fatima wagged her tail, causing a fair-sized dust storm. There was a glimpse of white-washed walls and smooth-bellied oil-vats strewn around a cobbled courtyard. I held my breath as we went in. It would need only one wrong note — a television satellite dish or a parked scrambling bike — and I'd be back on that hypnotist's divan mistrusting my own picture of perfection (which is why I never succumbed to his droning imprecations against tobacco).

But even in the dark, Trasierra is an enchanted place. On three sides of the courtyard were dimly lit verandas. We brushed against lavender. We were shown into the Moorish Suite. There was a little hallway with a pretty chest of drawers covered in blue glass and ceramic. It opened into a high-ceilinged room with a low table laden with books. To each side was an alcove, crowded with blue and white cushions, just the spot to curl up with V.S. Pritchett and a glass of sherry. An archway led to the bedroom, lofty and cool, also blue and white. Even the floor tiles were painted white. In the bathroom I counted 11 towels. Gene Wilder slept here. So did a certain duchess, who stayed a month.

A big cortijo is almost a walled village. Cottages, kitchens, olive presses, wine cellars, storerooms, pot-rooms, even a chapel, all huddle round the seigneurial mansion. We had to go past the schoolroom along a tile-and-cobble lane lined with rue to reach the salon. The other guests were drinking wine in front of a fireplace the size of a small aircraft hangar, where a pyre of twisted olive wood blazed merrily. We sprawled in enormous sofas and squashy armchairs eating home-cured olives. From the rafters hung bunches of bay and lavender.

There were nine of us at the round table, already laid with bowls of gazpacho. Charlotte Scott, Trasierra's chatelaine, presided. Her children served chicken with olives and capers and poured the rioja. By the time coffee came, no one could have imagined that just an hour or two earlier most of us had been strangers to each other. One might not have gone to bed at all that first night but for the lure of the Moorish Suite and the prospect of seeing Trasierra by daylight in the morning.



We woke to the tonking of sheep-bells outside the window. The sun was climbing over the sierra, bathing the roofs of the cortijo and the copses of cork and quince outside its walls in lemon light. A score of white doves strutted around the bell tower. Two smiling maids were heading across the courtyard with coffee and fresh loaves. "Buenos dias, señora. Buenos dias, señor." Plainly, the enchantment was to last.

I would guess that Trasierra has had much the same effect on its visitors for all the 500 years of its existence. But undoubtedly the most potent ingredient has been provided by Ms Scott. She is the Prospero of this place. Not only is she serenely beautiful (her sister is the actress Harriet Walter), she also has an unerring eye for beauty. Not a water bottle, door handle, fruit bowl or claw-footed bath seems to have been chosen without care. She does things with straw hats and raffia shopping bags that the editor of Interiors would die for.

The effect is not chi-chi but emphatic. It is the outcome of an authentic love affair with Spain. Such was her besottedness with the country that the young and pregnant Charlotte dragged her husband out to Andalucia in 1979. They bought the near ruins of Trasierra and began the 12-year task of restoring it, thereby providing a glorious employment boom for the builders and craftsmen of nearby Cazalla de la Sierra.

Gioconda, 16, was born in Seville, as were her three siblings. They were lucky it was in a hospital and not a ditch, says Charlotte, so slow was the 50-mile journey to the city in those days — which is why the local taxi drivers are adept midwives. (These days you can do it in an hour.) Now Gioconda is off to study mosaic-work in the city, leaving Jackson, George and Amber to wait at table and dance sevillanas after supper.

With her husband gone, Charlotte runs the place as a kind of upmarket guesthouse. Apart from keeping note of the number of finos you drink between meals, you haven't the smallest sense of being in a hotel. There is a heavenly swimming pool. The tennis court is set among olive and sweet chestnut trees. You can ride for miles through mountain and ravine on dappled Andalucian ponies. Or stroll into the little town of Cazalla for tapas of fried squid and anchovies in garlic. But the house speciality is the painting course — and while we were there, a writing course as well.

TREVOR GROVE
The painter's patio, where guests work with the tutor on still-lifes and portraits

Though no artist, I could see those who were — or wanted to be — were enjoying themselves hugely. The tutor was a West Country man, Robert Tilleard. He is an uncannily good portraitist and patient teacher. Each morning he would post himself on a pretty patio which he shared with a tame black rabbit and picturesque objects such as Ali Baba oil jars, a crumbling archway and a balcony straight out of *Carmen*. Here his students would work conscientiously until lunch — and sometimes after. Novice Jo from the BBC produced sparkling still-lifes of bottles. Eva, a parrot-fancier from Sweden, painted an astonishing portrait of my wife. Warwick from Sheffield worked grimly on a study of chairs.

Meanwhile, Angela Huth, the novelist and playwright, was to be found on an adjacent terrace conducting a seminar on opening sentences. The subjects were snow, an interview with Margaret Thatcher and a travel piece about Trasierra. Nina had a cool line on snow. Charlotte was perceptive about the powdery quality of Baroness T. Claudia and her husband Freddy, a Gibraltar MP, read out their homework, which they had dashed from the tennis court to complete.

And I, with this article in mind, bent an ear in the hope of learning how to describe this delectable place without sounding intoxicated. A hard task. If I see my hypnotist again he will have no trouble in transporting me blisswards. Then, maybe, next time I won't return from Trasierra with a reeking carton of duty-free Habanos.

TREVOR GROVE

- *The author was a guest of Trasierra, Cazalla de la Sierra, 41370 Sevilla, Spain (00 34 54 88 43 24). Weekly rates with a course are £800, including food, wine and tuition. For non-students, £600. Contact Charlotte Scott.*.

- *Direct return flights to Seville with Iberia cost from £175.*

Madrid offer, page 8

Art pays homage to Catalonia

The most stylish person I saw in Barcelona — the shrine of modern urban design — was a cleaner in the city's new Museum of Contemporary Art. In a geometric world of glass and granite, where even waste bins look like exhibits, the cleaner, wearing a black and white uniform, mopped at white walls and black floors with a white cloth wrung from a black bucket of white suds.

Entering the building, the visitor too feels drawn into an aesthetic realm. Wandering through its sinuous spaces is like being lost inside the labyrinths of a painting by Léger, or within the transparent volumes of some machine-age sculpture.

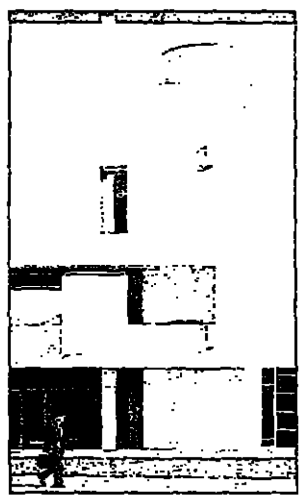
Richard Meier, the museum's American architect, describes his new creation — which, after numerous delays, has finally opened its doors this year — as a "cathedral of our time". It is one of Barcelona's most important cultural assets in recent years. There are more than 1,000 works of art in the museum's permanent collection, including pieces by Alexander Calder, Paul Klee and Joan Miró. In a pearly light, filtered through opalescent blinds, every line and texture, every curve and hollow, seems sculpted out of luminous space. Quartzite stars glitter in pale granite. Touches of colour gleam succulently against the pristine whiteness of the walls.

Meier's building typifies a brave spirit of experimentalism which has flourished in Barcelona since the late 1900s when *modernisme*, Catalonia's outlandish version of Art Nouveau, became prominent. This was followed by various avante garde movements which established Barcelona as one of the most visually exciting cities in Europe.

The streets flaunt their prodigies. There is, of course, Gaudi's unfinished fantasy, the *Sagrada Familia*, a spiny echinoderm of a building — "the sum total conscience of our perversions", as Salvador Dali described it. In an area known as the Quadrat d'Or (The Golden Square) more than 100 *modernista* structures crowd, including the Casa Battló with its surging walls and jaw-like balconies, and Domènech's *Casa Lleó Morera*, with its fanciful tiled cupolas and corner spires.

But Barcelona also has a far more ancient artistic legacy — one which stretches back to Roman times. The visitor, gliding up the ramps into the upper galleries of the Museum of Contemporary Art, can look out over the skyline of an antique city. The contrast could hardly be more marked. The medieval area known as the Barri Gotic is a warren of dark, narrow streets.

Amid the soaring arches of the Gothic cathedral side chapels cage the effigies of some of Europe's most exotic saints. Grubby geese ruffle feathers in courtyards and, from iron balconies, canaries sing among pot plants and flapping washing. Even the cafès and restaurants seem steeped in this city's artistic heritage. Els Quatre Gats in the Carrer de Montsio is the tavern where the young Picasso used to eat.


Barcelona's Museum of Contemporary Art

Seafood in Barcelona is renowned. "There isn't a fish in the ocean that doesn't fly the red and yellow colours of our national flag," the waiter told me. On my companion's plate a lobster tumbled apart amid a bed of shellfish, and my order was brought to the table still baking in a flame-licked case of salt. When it comes to eating in Barcelona it is fortunate that they pay as much attention to content as to style.

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

- *The author was a guest of Time Off (0171-235 8070). Two-night breaks to Barcelona, including flight and accommodation, from £224 per person. British Airways return flights to Barcelona start at £199. Single rooms at the Hotel Meson Castilla (00 343 318 21 82) are about £35, double £45.*

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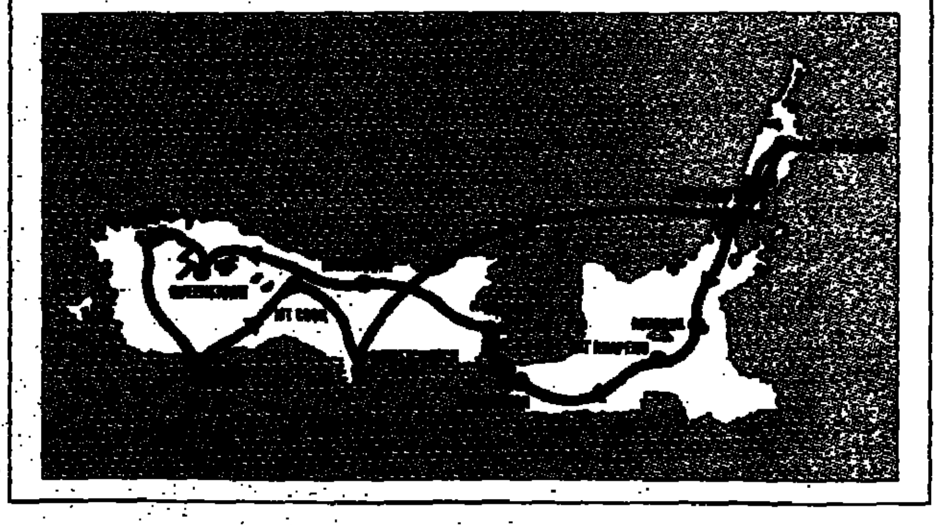

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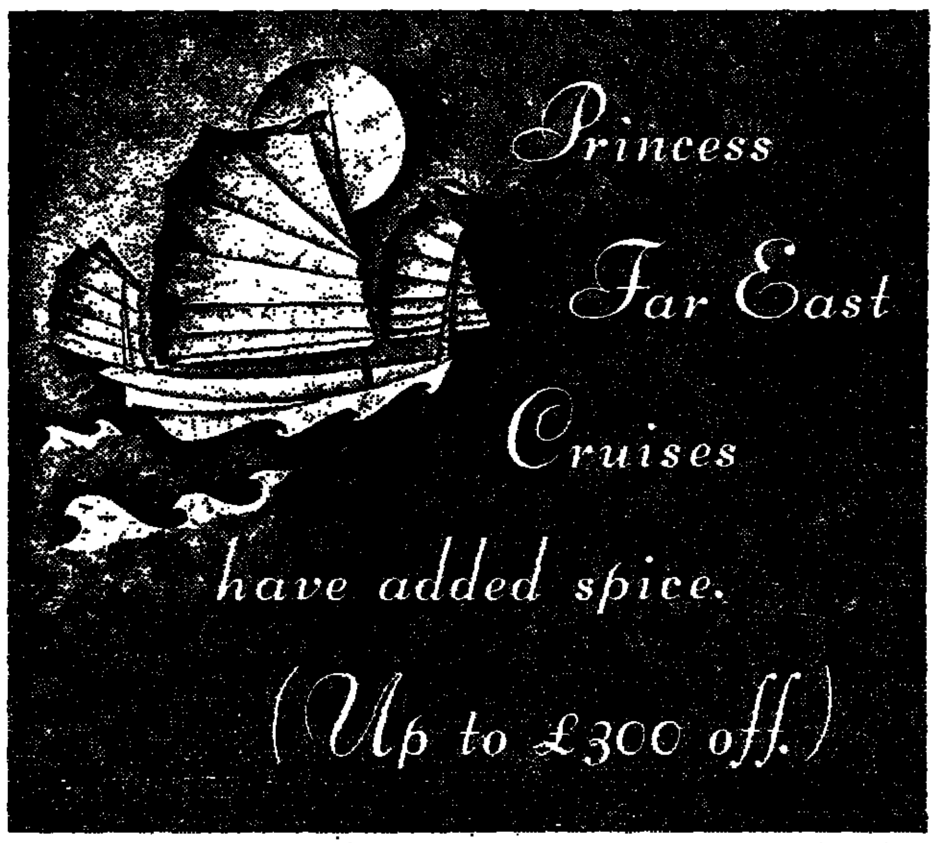

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Club Olympus	Tenerife	32	HIGH	4	£1,290
CPV at Lubina Del Sol	Spain	51/52	MID	4	£1,290
CPV at Lubina Del Sol	Spain	26/42/43	HIGH	4	£1,390
Kilconquhar Country Club	Scotland	49	LOW	6	£1,390
Scandinavian Village	Scotland	44	MID	5	£1,390
Beverly Hills Club	Tenerife	18	MID	4	£1,490
Club Cala Blanca	Gran Canaria	18	MID	6	£1,490
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Barratt Plas Talgarth	Wales	40/51	MID	6	£1,590
Beverly Hills Heights	Tenerife	45/46	MID	4	£1,690
Mistra Village	Malta	52	HIGH	4	£1,690
CPV at Torre Quemada	Spain	35	HIGH	6	£1,790
Lanzarote Beach Club	Lanzarote	32	HIGH	4/6	£1,790
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Royal Sunset Beach Club	Tenerife	2*/16/17	HIGH	4	£1,890
Global Sunset Harbour	Tenerife	34/36	HIGH	4	£1,890
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The Harbour Club	Spain	29	HIGH	4	£999
Avalon Beach Club	Greece	37/38	HIGH	4	£1,090
Devoncourt	Devon	27/28	HIGH	4	£1,090
Marbesa Village	Spain	31/32	HIGH	8	£1,090
Barratt Lochanally	Scotland	45	MID	6	£1,190
Club Mayflower	Tenerife	37/38	HIGH	2	£1,190
Diamond Las Calitas 2	Lanzarote	41/42	HIGH	4	£1,190
[illegible]	Portugal	20/21	HIGH	4	£1,190
Castillo Beach Club	Fuerteventura	Floating	HIGH	4	£1,290
CLC At Las Palmas	Spain	28/29	HIGH	6	£1,290
Club Tenerife	Tenerife	29	HIGH	6	£1,290
Devoncourt Hotel	Devon	51	HIGH	6	£1,290
Diamond Las Calitas 3	Lanzarote	16/17	HIGH	4	£1,290
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[illegible]	Portugal	51/52	HIGH	4	£1,290
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Castillo Beach Club	Fuerteventura	Floating	HIGH	4	£1,390
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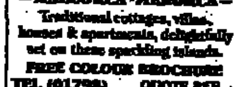

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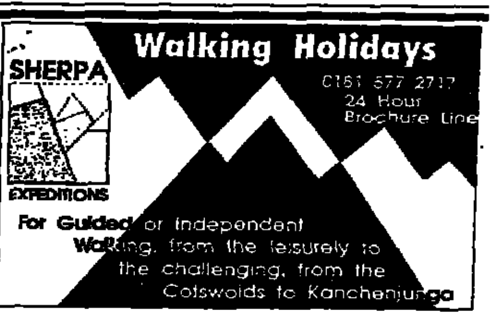

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Epping Forest	Epping Forest Moat House	60	
Harlow	Harlow Moat House	60	
Southend	Airport Hotel	56	
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Ashford	Ashford International Hotel	64	
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Harpenden	Harpenden House Hotel	70	135
Hemel Hempstead	Watermill Hotel	56	
Reading	Holiday Inn	70	130
	Reading Moat House	70	
St Albans	Hertfordshire Moat House	68	
Shepperton	Shepperton Moat House	70	
Stevenage	Hertfordpark Hotel	54	
	Cromwell Hotel	56	
Ware	Briggens House Hotel	90	145
	County Hotel	60	
Watford	Dean Park Hotel	58	
Windsor	Oakley Court Hotel	106	215
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Birmingham	Grand Hotel	74	
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Cheltenham/Glos	Cheltenham/Gloucester Moat House	78	145
Leicester	Hermitage Hotel	56	
Northampton	Northampton Moat House	68	
Northampton	Westone Hotel	68	
Nottingham	Nottingham Moat House	58	
	Nottingham Royal Moat House	94	165
Oxford	Oxford Moat House	76	
Shrewsbury	Prince Rupert Hotel	80	140
Solihull	Solihull Moat House	78	140
Stoke on Trent	Stoke on Trent Moat House	76	
Stourport	County Hotel	74	
Stratford-upon-Avon	Billesley Manor Hotel*	152	225
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	Falcon Hotel	88	
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Southampton	County Hotel	64	
Winchester	Winchester Moat House	70	
[illegible]			
Blackburn	Blackburn Moat House	62	
Bolton	Bolton Moat House	66	
Bramhall	Bramhall Moat House	66	
Chester	Chester Moat House	104	170
Darlington	Blackwell Grange Hotel	94	170
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Harrogate	Harrogate Moat House	72	130
Liverpool	Liverpool Moat House	72	
Manchester	Manchester Airport Moat House	78	
Newcastle	Europa Hotel	68	
	Newcastle Airport Moat House	76	
	Holiday Inn	76	130
Rotherham	Carlton Park Hotel	68	
Sheffield	Sheffield Moat House	74	140
Washington	Washington Moat House	68	
Wigan	Wigan/Standish Moat House	60	
York	York Viking Moat House	116	180
[illegible]			
Cardiff	Cardiff M/H	70	
[illegible]			
Aberdeen	Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza	78	
Edinburgh	Caledonian Hotel	168	195
	Edinburgh Capital Moat House	78	130
	Forth Bridges Hotel	76	
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GAMES

by Raymond Keene

WORLD champion Garry Kasparov suffered a sensational reverse in the first game of his six-game match against IBM's Deep Blue computer in Philadelphia this month.

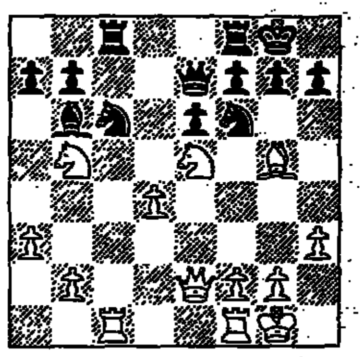
Kasparov had lost to computers before, but only in rapid-play games. He had, in any case, always gained his revenge. Kasparov's loss to Deep Blue was the first time that a world champion had lost to a computer at the normal tournament rate of 40 moves in two hours.

From the start in game one, Kasparov seemed ill at ease. His second move blew the position wide open, when conventional wisdom dictates that a closed strategy is the prudent course against computers. Kasparov's tenth move . . . Bb4 looked artificial, and after this bishop was driven out of play on the queen's flank, the computer systematically set about inflicting weaknesses on Kasparov's pawns.

With his position collapsing on all fronts, Kasparov launched a desperate counterattack, and towards the end of the game was even threatening checkmate in one move. Nevertheless, the computer brushed aside Kasparov's last vestiges of counterplay with contemptuous ease.

We join the first game just before Deep Blue, playing white, shatters Kasparov's kingside pawn structure.

W: Deep Blue
B: Garry Kasparov
Philadelphia
February 1996
Game 1

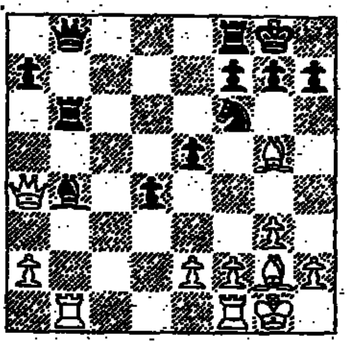


18 Bxd6 gxd6 19 Nc4 Rfd8
20 Nxb6 axb6 21 Rfd1 f5
22 Qe3 Qf6 23 d5 Rxd5
24 Rxd5 exd5 25 b3 Kh8
26 Qxb6 Rg8 27 Qc5 d4
28 Nd6 f4 29 Nxb7 Ne5
30 Qd5 f3 31 g3 Nd3
32 Rc7 Re8 33 Nd6 Re1+
34 Kh2 Nxf2 35 Nxf7+ Kg7
36 Ng5+ Kh6 37 Rxh7+

Black resigns, on account of 37 . . . Kg6 38 Qg8+ Kf5 39 Nxf3.

In game two, Kasparov struck back — fascinatingly enough, by inflicting the same kind of pawn weakness on Deep Blue that he had suffered in the first game.

W: Kasparov; B: Deep Blue
Game 2



20 Bxf6 gxf6 21 Qd7 Qe8
22 Qxa7 Rb8 23 Qa4 Be3
24 Rxb8 Qxb8 25 Be4 Qc7
26 Qa6 Kg7 27 Qd3 Rb8
28 Bxh7

Kasparov has now achieved his primary strategic goal, having broken into Black's king's fortress, exposed the black king and created a passed h-pawn. The presence of opposite bishops in fact increases White's chances of attack, since the black bishop cannot sensibly reenter the game. Kasparov ultimately won both of Black's doubled f-pawns and forced resignation by the computer on move 73.

IBM's Deep Blue is a formidable calculating monster which harnesses 256 processors in parallel and thus sees 512 million different positions every second. The question must be whether such immense calculating power can translate into the strategic and tactical creativity required for victory on the chessboard.

By Raymond Keene

White to play.

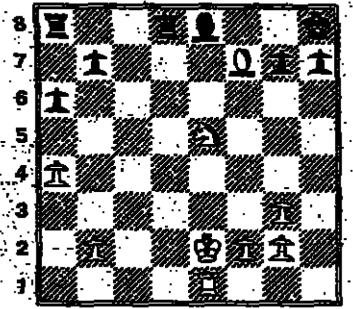
This position is from the game Stelting - Schroter, Germany, 1996.

White, a rook for a knight behind, seems to be in trouble in this ending. How did he swiftly prove that this was not the case?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Qg3.

Last week's winners: P Santer, West Mersea, Essex; A Kelly, Jekley, West Yorkshire; R M Hill, Morpeth, Northumberland.



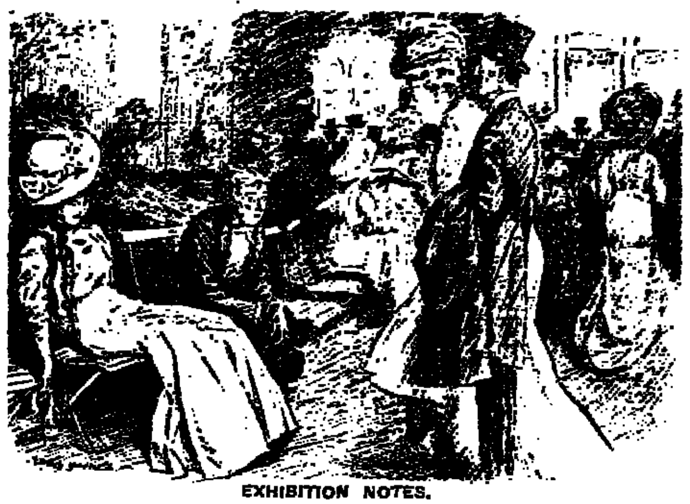
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (96), Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 21.



EXHIBITION NOTES.

"GRACIOUS HEAVENS! MY DEAR CHILD, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?"
[illegible]

"Damn it, Jackie, the judge has recognised us."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Annabelle Sartore, of Whetstone, London N20

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAKENKREUZ
a. False humility
b. A duelling sword
c. The swastika

MOJO
a. A lubricious dance
b. An Apache tribe
c. A drug

KERGUELEN
a. A Celtic housemaid
b. An effeminate androgyne
c. Indian islands

MEHARI
a. A riding camel
b. Algerian backgammon
c. The winter solstice

Answers on page 16

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE strongest part of Terence Reese's game was his grasp of the technical aspects. He and Boris Schapiro didn't have the aggressive competitive bidding style characteristic of today's top players. Reese won the World Par Contest in 1961 (a "par" competition is one in which players are given pre-set hands and have to make the correct plays. It is the supreme test of technique). To put that achievement in context, the last World Par Contest was won by Benito Garrozzo in 1990, another player who in his day was rated the best in the world.

In this hand from the 1955 World Championship (which Britain won) the contract was Six Clubs at both tables. Reese was the declarer for Great Britain. How would you play?

Dealer East — Love all IMP's

♠AJ93
♥KJ8743
♦A2
♣5

N
W E
S

♠Q542
♥A10
♦-
♣AKJ10976

W	N	E	S
—	—	Pass	1♣
3♦	3♥	4♦	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Final contract: Six Clubs by South
Lead: the nine of diamonds

The American declarer, Rosen, won the diamond in dummy and took a club finesse. When that held he played two more trumps, with East turning up with Qxx. He eventually lost a spade trick, so in all he made two tricks in each major, one in diamonds and seven in clubs. This was the full deal:

♠AJ93
♥KJ8743
♦A2
♣5

West		East
♠10876	N	♠K
♥-	W E	♥Q9652
♦KQJ10975	S	♦8643
♣82		♣Q43

♠Q542
♥A10
♦-
♣AKJ10976

Reese found an extra chance. He ruffed the diamond opening lead and played ace and king of clubs. When the queen didn't appear he continued with the ace of hearts and the ten of hearts to the king, and the jack of hearts. East had to cover, and Reese ruffed and exited with a club to East's queen. The best East could do was play a diamond, but now Reese was able to establish the hearts via a ruffing finesse. That gave him a total of four tricks in hearts, one in diamonds and six in clubs. With the ace of spades that was 12 tricks, so he didn't have to take the spade finesse.

The skill in the hand lay in recognising that if East had Qxx of clubs it was not necessary to take the finesse — the declarer could always establish the hearts in the manner described. Meanwhile, playing off the ace and king of clubs picked up on the extra chance that West had the queen singleton or doubleton. As so often with good plays, it brought no gain.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

FINDING the right formula to produce a thoroughly absorbing game is a tricky task, but BMG seems to have hit the nail on the head with **Backpacker** — ironically, perhaps, since hitting nail heads with a hammer is just one of the games within the title.

In essence **Backpacker**, on Windows and Mac CD-Roms, is a hybrid of the old board games *Go!* and *Careers*, hooked on to absorbing trivia questions. The aim is for players to travel the globe and to answer local general knowledge questions in the countries visited.

What is so different about this title is its level of intelligence and clarity. Players are encouraged to suss the scene in about 50 countries as well as understand the kind of skills needed to hold down a variety of professions.

You begin with a limited budget with which to head off. After a short animation sequence of a plane speeding between locations, you find yourself in new surroundings. A clutch of icons explains sights and anecdotal snippets of, say, Paris or Rome. Next you book into an hotel, triggering more general knowledge questions. Do well and you'll be rewarded with a suite overlooking the best views. Answer poorly, and you'll be lucky to be offered a noisy room above the smelly hotel bins.

Then, in order to earn a little money towards your next leg of the mammoth trip, you will have to find work. Job offers range from bar-tending to, if you can cut it, work as a politician. Whichever occupation you opt for, you will be tested with questions and simple but tricky puzzles. At the end, if you've done well, you'll qualify in a new occupation which is stamped into your passport; do poorly and you may be paid off without completing your training; do exceptionally badly and you'll be fired with no pay packet.

The key to success is ensuring that you have enough cash to buy a flight to your next destination. Should you run out of money, you could call home and ask your father to bail you out — triggering a welcome humorous sequence.

If you've ever drooled over jetsetting Jill Dando and her *Holiday* series on television, then this is the next best thing. The sights of each country are illustrated with colour slides and captions telling you just enough to make you really wish you were there. This is aimed at anyone aged ten or over, although borderline cases might find it a little too gruelling. The only irritation of **Backpacker** is the balance of the sound levels. The sequence animating flights from one country to another are too loud. **Backpacker** is a great game to fire the imagination if you want to take yourself away from drizzly Britain for an hour or so.

Cooks Jo Stewart and Patricia Bidmead

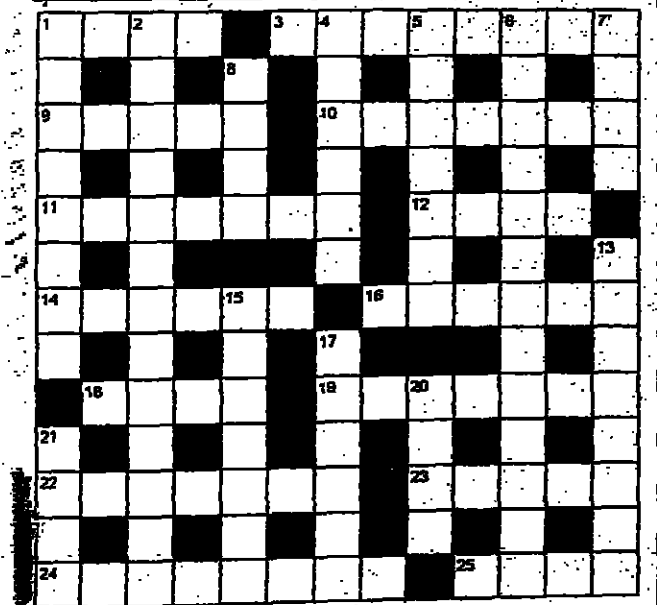
Closer to home, for a taste of real Britain look no further than Gloucestershire's Minchenhampton, near Stroud, and **Recipe For Success — Menu Maker** (to order, call 01453 731313). This is a lovingly compiled recipe database project which Jo Stewart and Patricia Bidmead have taken two years to put together. The starter version costs £25, comes on two disks and features 2,000 recipes — everything from asparagus to zabaglione. Later volumes feature 1,000 recipes a time, building to a final library of 12,000 dishes. The recipe database can be searched in many ways, such as for calories, ingredients and preparation time.

Should your cooking talents fail you to such an extent that 2,000 menus would be impossible to master, then perhaps Microsoft's **Julia Child — Home cooking with Master Chefs** is what you need first. For 20 years Julia has been America's Delia equivalent, and on this CD-Rom she introduces you to the kitchens and skills of 16 top chefs. The courses are straightforward, generously illustrated and start you off with scores of techniques, time-saving tips and a realistic 100 beginner's recipes.

The timer has almost run out on Cyberspace Twenty-One, a competition open to all ages which closes at midnight on Tuesday. To enter, invent a game. Entries should be legible and between 150 and 350 words. Please include your name, age, address and home telephone number and clearly mark the envelope Cyberspace Twenty-One, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. Five lucky entrants will win an NEC 4x4c multispin CD-Rom jukebox, a superb quad-speed drive worth £199.

"The best number for a dinner party is two — myself and a damn good head waiter." Nubar Gulbenkian (1965).

TIMES CROSSWORD



No 707

ACROSS
1 Scraps of cloth (4)
3 Abandoned (8)
9 White mark on face; burn (5)
10 Pay (reluctantly) (4,3)
11 Fund of money; excellent (7)
2 Implement (4)
4 Indigenous person (6)
6 Breathe noisily; scheme (6)
8 Unaccompanied man: share speculator (4)
9 Splendid array (orig. armour) (7)
2 Originate, proceed (from) (7)
3 Coating for pastries, pottery (5)
4 Show reluctance (8)
25 Sea animal; fasten tightly (4)

DOWN
1 Ruddy (coloured) (8)
2 Make desperate, inadequate try (5,2,6)
4 (Facts) recorded and stored (2,4)
5 Slight wound; withdraw (7)
6 Not be pushy (4,4,5)
7 Western military alliance (1,1,1,1)
8 Touched; material (4)
13 Fighting fit; if I must (4,4)
15 Homeless person (7)
17 Positive, optimistic (6)
20 Close by (4)
21 Hebrew *B*; a *Little Woman* (4)

OLUTION TO NO 706

CROSS: 1 Badinage 5 Warm 8 Albanian 9 Smog 11 Heron 2 Grown up 13 Goblet 15 Douche 18 En masse 19 Bogie 1 Plan 22 No-go area 23 Lute 24 Inherent
OWN: 1 Bear-hug 2 Debar 3 No-nonsense 4 Grange Almanac 7 Mug up 10 Go for broke 14 Bombast 16 Elegant Heroin 18 Expel 20 Gorge

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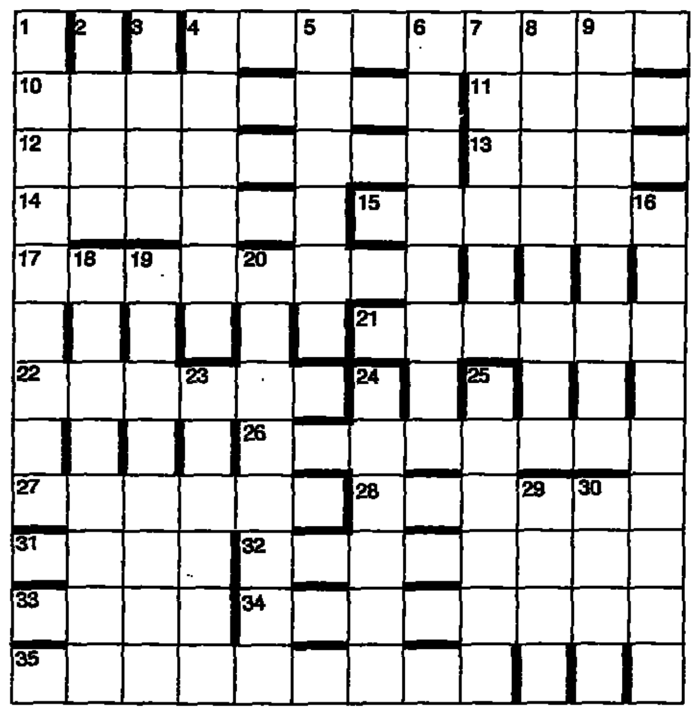
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3345: Double fault by Gioconda

FIFTEEN of the clues have a misprint in the definition. The correct letters taken in order then give an explanation as to the solution of the remaining twenty-one clues. All words are in *Chambers*.

ACROSS
4 Affliction suffered in molar region results in failure to chew. (9)
10 Gypsies honour one in old woods once found in Europe. (8)
11 Lots of people hound on the golf course! (4)
12 Business concerning wall leads to former truce being broken by one unknown. (8)
13 Having broken the window, paled in fight. (4)
14 Water lily from behind at end of day without pail. (6)
15 Is Mars substitute for butter? (6)
17 Bella, upset about school, often played with food. (8)
21 Yellow bird bread is made by many around town. (6)
22 If it's white, hat can be a nuisance. (6)
26 When sailing round Norfolk brine seems over-elaborate for dinner. (8)
27 Tender story shown in daytime. (6)
28 Point is to aim for natty growth. (6)
31 He can get wine for use on untidy plants. (4)
32 In the tennis semi-finals, nets the champion. (8)
33 We heard the farmer lots during the storm. (4)
34 Hera ran, telling her messenger to hurry. (8)
35 For Geography Pa and Harris appear in red. (9)

DOWN
1 Female grass cuddles swine in narrow bit of lane. (9)
2 To a prince apparel is very important. (4)
3 The thong is very popular! (4)
4 Adapt account to be put in record. (6)
5 I visited the Himalayas to look for *morels*. (6)
6 Your free round game is shaped like Paris. (8)
7 While Europeans were on holiday in Oman, bought haggis. (6)
8 During my red period building collapsed injuring my horse. (8)
9 Found on hand part of boat, perhaps, to stem catch. (8)
16 Buries broken set among bikes. (9)
18 I watched there on top of the dagoba. (8)
19 I rush into backing group to get bit of academic's wig. (8)
20 Tackle box cover protects one from sprat. (8)
23 Fasten hinge with bra slowing ease of movement. (6)
24 In the capital lion displays Peruvian pride. (6)
25 At lie, came up trumps. (6)
29 When playing legal try to be smooth. (4)
30 What a tale — Rover in the church! (4)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3345

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ADDRESS……………………………………
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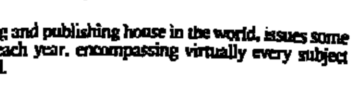
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3345, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, February 29.

The winner will receive: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia**, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 36,000 entries; **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**.



Cambridge University Press, the oldest printing and publishing house in the world, issues some 1,500 new publications in over 190 countries each year, encompassing virtually every subject seriously studied in the English-speaking world.

Solution to No 3342: 2, 10, 8, 4, 0, 0, 12, 5, 13 by Aldhelm

The scores in the eight match clues were:
15 Ac. 4-0: st[imul]ate; arouse **19 Ac. 2-2:** [re]venue; inco[me] **29 Ac. 3-1:** hick[ory]; [p]ecan **36 Ac. 0-3:** finance chief; trea[sur]er **1 D. 1-1:** ru[i]n; wrac[k] **9 D. 0-2:** fix; ass[ig]n **31 D. 3-0:** we[igh]ts; troy **35 D. 1-2:** fe[r]n; nard[oo]

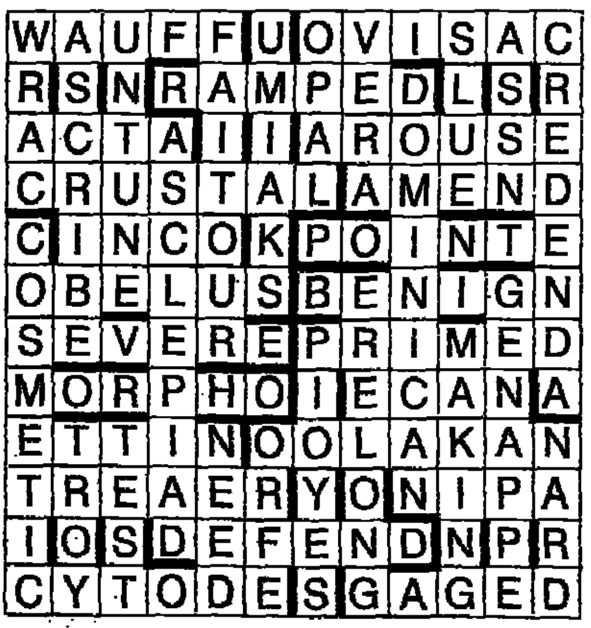
These scores, together with the information in the preamble, give the following full scores:
A v B 2-0; A v C 1-1; A v D 2-2; B v A 1-3; B v C 4-0; B v D 3-0; C v A 3-1; C v B 1-2; C v D 2-1; D v A 0-4; D v B 0-2; D v C 0-3

The completed table is thus as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A	6	3	2	1	13	7	8
B	6	4	0	2	12	6	8
C	6	3	1	2	10	9	7
D	6	0	1	5	3	16	1

The decoded team answers are: A PIOYES B UMIAKS C POINTE D MORPHO; and the title is IN SUMMARY.

The winner is: A. A. P. Thorpe, of Stratford-sub-Castle, Salisbury. The runners-up are P. R. Pugh, of Grayshott, Surrey, and Peter Papworth, of Liverpool.



W	A	U	F	F	U	O	V	I	S	A	C
R	S	N	R	A	M	P	E	D	L	S	R
A	C	T	A	I	I	A	R	O	U	S	E
C	R	U	S	T	A	L	A	M	E	N	D
C	I	N	C	O	K	P	O	I	N	T	E
O	B	E	L	U	S	B	E	N	I	G	N
S	E	V	E	R	E	P	R	I	M	E	D
M	O	R	P	H	O	I	E	C	A	N	A
E	T	T	I	N	O	O	L	A	K	A	N
T	R	E	A	E	R	Y	O	N	I	P	A
I	O	S	D	E	F	E	N	D	N	P	R
C	Y	T	O	D	E	S	G	A	G	E	D

هكذا فن الاعلان

Ian Francis enjoys his breakfast and settles his Visa bill.

Jake O'Sullivan teases his mother as she asks about her mortgage.

Yeboah opens the scoring, Andy Smith celebrates and raises his overdraft.

Bob Sparks wakes with a start and calls to pay his gas bill.

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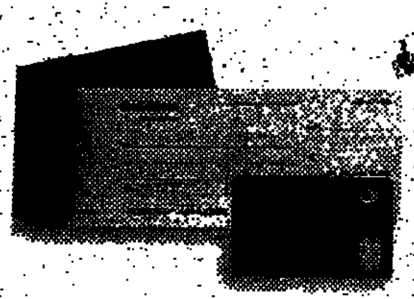

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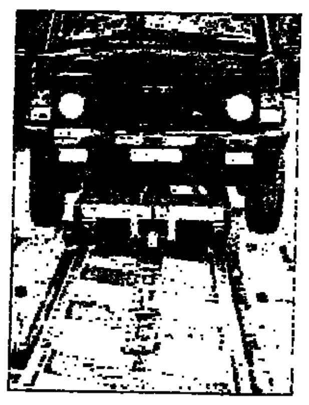
A secret blonde in the life of radio's 'villain'

Page 9

CAR 96



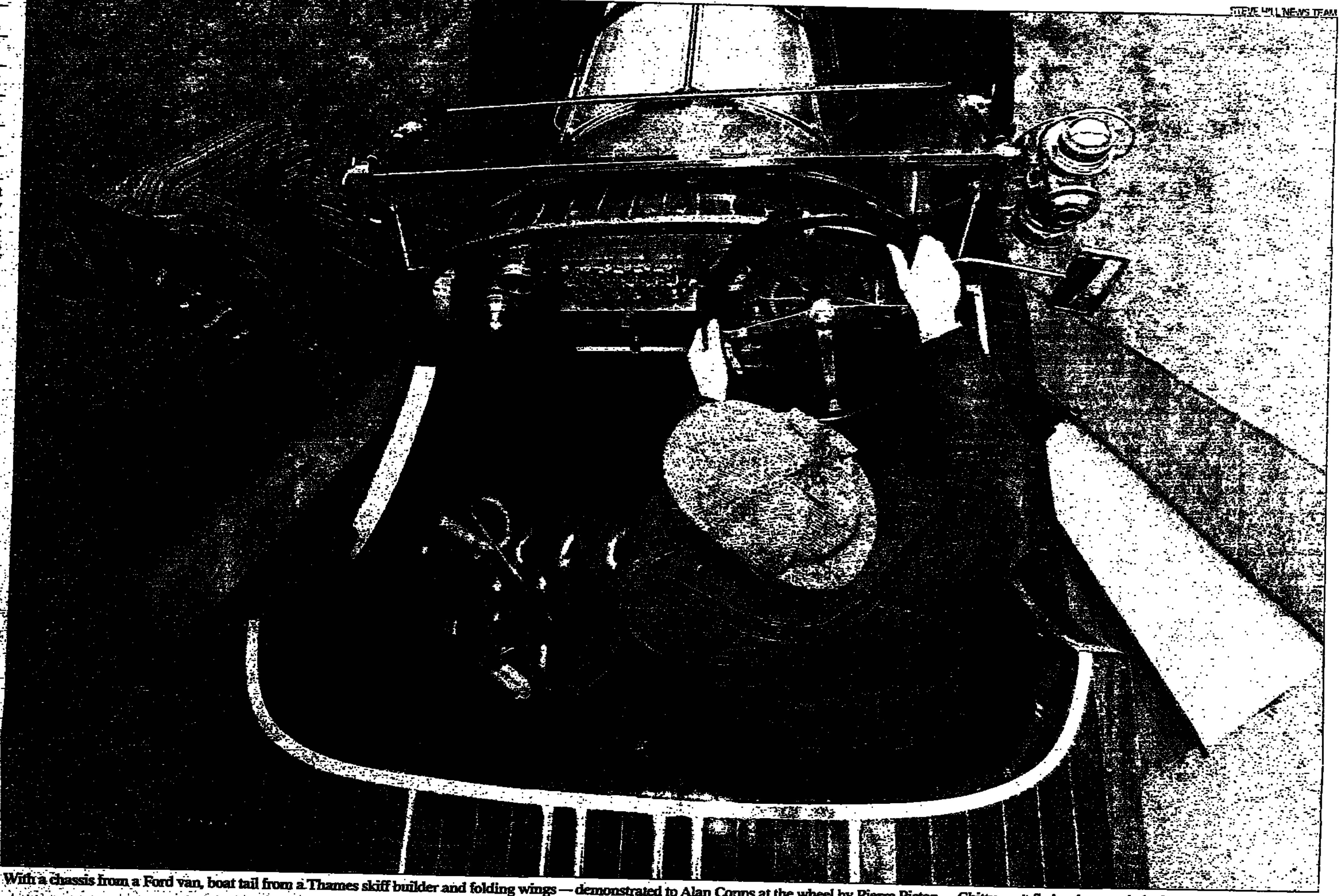
Classic Range Rover runs out of road

Page 10

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 1996

How the car became a film star

Alan Copps discovers the joys of driving the magical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang



STEVE HILL/NEWS TEAM

With a chassis from a Ford van, boat tail from a Thames skiff builder and folding wings — demonstrated to Alan Copps at the wheel by Pierre Picton — Chitty can't fly but has carried a lot of brides and grooms

It was a bit like discovering rather late in life that Father Christmas really exists: I pushed the gear selector gently forward, let out the clutch and nosed out on to the road ... at the wheel of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

If, as so many believe, the British have a love affair with the motor car then perhaps this is where it all begins. Films seen in childhood, in which the car is as much a character as the people, from the sentimentality of *Genevieve* and the *Yellow Rolls-Royce* to the macho exploits of James Bond or *Judge Dredd*. Chitty may be more than 30 years old and a lot of racier rivals have come and gone, but it obviously keeps its place in children's affection. The film is regularly on the list of the ten most pirated videos, an accolade many directors would die for.

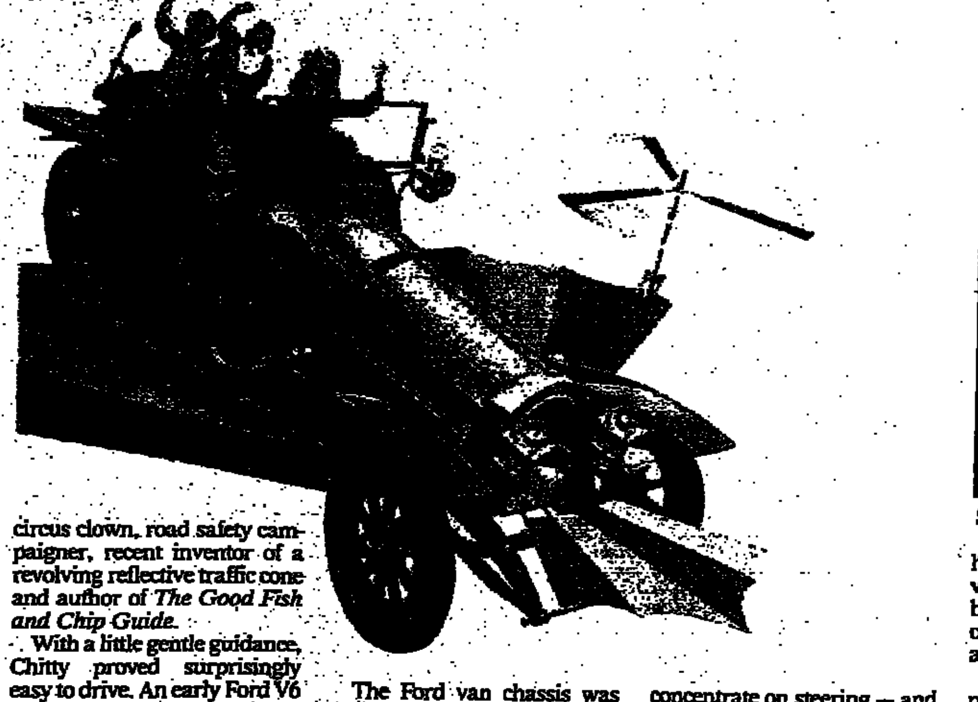
This year not only marks the centenary of the British motor industry but also the 100th anniversary of the cinema, and the two have been linked throughout their histories. The great joy of star cars is that almost all of them are real road-going vehicles — unlike starships, planes and even castles which are so often stage sets simply to be demolished as soon as their image is committed to celluloid.

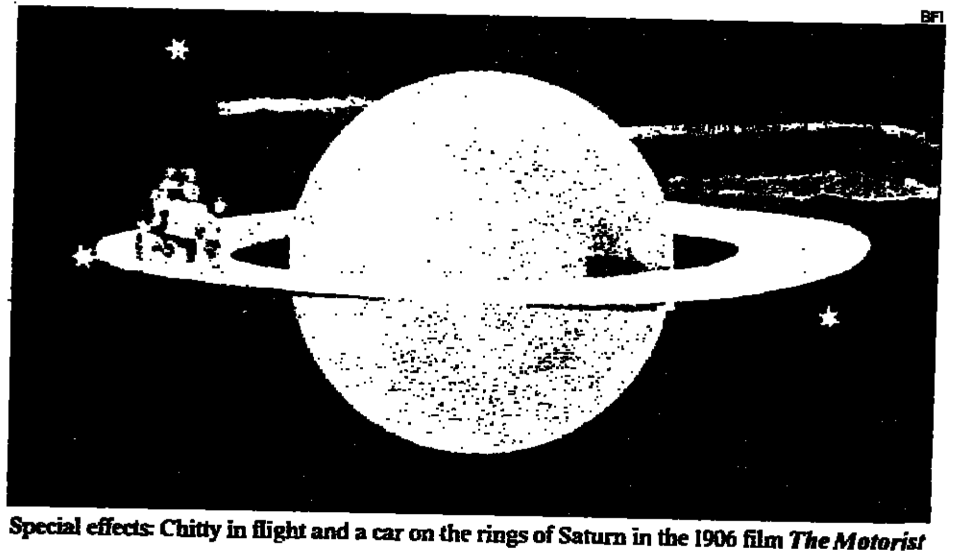
This is a point made by Ken Adams, designer of this Chitty I was driving, whose long film career has encompassed cars and many other props and was capped last year by winning an Oscar for the set of *The Madness of King George*. "If you put a car in a film, it simply has to be real. It is so easy to spot a model. But Chitty was one I found extremely difficult, and so did Pinewood at that time.

"I liked the idea of a body like a boat and the bonnet of a Bugatti. I built a plywood mock-up, but it was a long time before I got it right. Ford supplied the chassis and the driving unit. The work was done by Alan Mann, the specialist who had prepared their GT40 race cars for Le Mans. We had a lot of fun on that picture. For the water sequences we had another car which we mounted on two powerboats and there was a full-scale model for the flying."

I found Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in Warwickshire — complete with boat tail, folding wings and lovingly polished snakeshead horn. I was guiding its 17-foot length past Anne Hathaway's cottage in Shottery just outside Stratford upon Avon. It's been on the road since the film was finished and bears the registration GEN 11, the nearest they could get at the time to Genie, to express the magic of it all.

Sitting beside me doing his best impression of Professor Potts was the owner of this fabulous beast, Pierre Picton, circus clown, road safety campaigner, recent inventor of a revolving reflective traffic cone and author of *The Good Fish and Chip Guide*.





BFI

Special effects: Chitty in flight and a car on the rings of Saturn in the 1906 film *The Motorist*

With a little gentle guidance, Chitty proved surprisingly easy to drive. An early Ford V6 engine takes up only a small portion of that bonnet that stretches into the distance but makes a wonderfully convincing noise — this car, after all, originally took its name from a Brooklands special of the most fearsome multi-litred breed.

The Ford van chassis was extended at the front to mount the axle between two authentically cart-like leaf springs. It also uses a Borg-Warner semi-automatic gearbox of the type found in vans, which is a great asset because the absence of gears allows the driver to concentrate on steering — and that needs some concentration, the technique resembling that of steering a boat.

The beautifully finished boat tail came from a Thames skiff builder, the instruments and aluminium dash from an aircraft, headlamps and snake-horn from some unidentified veteran and the burnished brass oil reservoir just in front of the outside handbrake from an early Rolls-Royce.

The car makes regular appearances at shows and is much in demand for weddings during the summer. Its most strikingly modern touch is the seatblets, essential since most of its passengers tend to be on the young side.

But Chitty is not the only piece of auto-film history that Pierre Picton has preserved. His other car is a Laurel and Hardy Model T Ford, the sort where the doors fall off and the back collapses at the touch of a hidden lever. It's a runner, but can't be registered for road use. It was bought from a Hollywood studio, one of several specially adapted for the two funny men and has been in Pierre's possession since becoming his chief prop during his time as a clown in Bertram Mills circus in the 1950s. (The first *Fish and Chip Guide* was compiled from tastings he made while the circus was on the road).

His cars are important links in a chain of star cars which span the history of the cinema. One of the first films made by the British cinema pioneer Cecil Hepworth in 1900 was *Exploits of a Motor Car*, and another early British effort, *The Automobile Accident* made by Robert Paul, featured some of the first special effects, resulting in a scene where a pedestrian's legs are gruesomely severed by a passing car. By 1906 special effects were sophisticated enough for Georges Méliès to show cinemagoers a car driving round one of the rings of Saturn in his film *The Motorist*.

Since then things have progressed to where carmakers fight for the opportunity to take a starring role in big budget movies. James Bond's transfer of allegiance to a BMW Z3 in *Goldeneye* is worth millions in publicity to the German maker. Aston Martin made the switch from small UK sports car maker to international name thanks to the same hero's use of a DB5. A car complete with all the *Goldfinger* gadgets is on permanent display at the Cornish Goldsmiths' showroom in Portreath.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, of course, came from the pen of Bond's creator, Ian Fleming, a great motoring buff, who named it after the 18-litre Brooklands specials driven by Count Louis Zborowski in the 1920s. The only disappointment is that when you extend the wings it doesn't fly.

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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**

A40 Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks with contraflow between Hilary Road in Acton and the Northern roundabout in White City.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over the Lea Valley Viaduct.

A406 North Circular Road, Finchley. Major roadworks continue with various restrictions between the A1 and A1000 junctions.

A12 Eastern Avenue, Wanstead. Construction of the M11 link road continues, with eastbound down to a single lane between the Redbridge roundabout and High Street.

A4 Great West Road, Chiswick. Between 9pm and 6am Monday-Thursday nights reduced to one lane each way for repairs to the elevated section of the M4 above.

● **SOUTH-EAST**

M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow between junctions 6 and 8/9 cause lengthy tailbacks.

M25 Hertfordshire. Both anticlockwise and clockwise exit sliproads are closed overnight at junction 24 for major repair work.

M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane closures and contraflows, between junctions 6 and 8 and junctions 9 and 10.

A509 Buckinghamshire. Major roadworks on the Wellingborough Road in Olney, at junction with Lavendon Road.

A27 East Sussex. Major roadworks at Firle, between Selmeston and Lewes, with temporary lights.

A249 Kent. Major works at the Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne often cause lengthy hold-ups between the M2 and Kingsferry Bridge.

● **SOUTH-WEST**

M4/M5 Avon. Work on the second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around the Almondsbury & Aust interchanges, and also on the M5 around junction 18.

M32 Avon. Contraflow for major roadworks between junctions 1 and 2. The Southbound entry slip at junction 1, is also closed off peak.

A4 Avon. Lane restrictions and temporary lights over the Newbridge Bridge, Bath.

A40 Gloucestershire. Golden Valley Bypass (between Gloucester and Cheltenham) reduced to a single lane each way over junction 11 of the M5. Due to end February 18.

A30 Cornwall. Roadworks and contraflow near Bolventor, on Bodmin Moor.

A377 Devon. Roadworks continue around Eggesford, between Exeter and Barnstaple, with temporary lights.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**

M6 West Midlands. Major roadworks continue between junctions 5 and 6 with lane restrictions in both directions.

M1 Leicestershire. Final stages of major roadworks underway, with lane restrictions in both directions between junctions 21 and 22.

A563 Leicestershire. Roadworks and contraflow on Lubbersthorpe Way, Leicester between the Dumbell Island and the A47 Hinckley Road junction.

A1 Nottinghamshire. Roadworks on the Apley Head roundabout near Worksop (junction with the A57 and A614) cause peak-time delays.

A47 Norfolk. Two sets of major roadworks: at Terrington St John and at Swaffham.

A11 Norfolk. Construction of Wymondham bypass continues, with lane and speed restrictions between Hethersett and Attleborough.

M6 Staffordshire. North and southbound entry sliproads on to motorway closed at junction 11 for work on the A460.

● **NORTH**

M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at end of motorway at junction 47.

M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 21.

M6 Greater Manchester. Roadworks and lane closures between junctions 24 and 26. **M6** Lancashire. Lane closures in both directions between junctions 28 and 31 for work on the J65 extension.

A5063 Greater Manchester. Major roadworks and lane closures on Trafford Road near junction with Pomona Strand.

A630 South Yorkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow on the Rotherway at Canklow, between junction 33 of the M1 and Rotherham.

A167M Tyneside. Northbound lane closures on the Newcastle Central Motorway near Jesmond Road interchange.

● **WALES**

M4 Gwent. Widening work continues in connection with second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24.

A48 West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.

A483 West Glamorgan. Major roadworks and contraflow on Fabian Way, Swansea between Elba Crescent and Earlswood traffic lights.

A4229 Mid Glamorgan. Roadworks and temporary lights between Cornelly and Porthcawl.

A547 Gwynedd. Bridge repairs with temporary lights near A55 junction at Llandudno Junction.

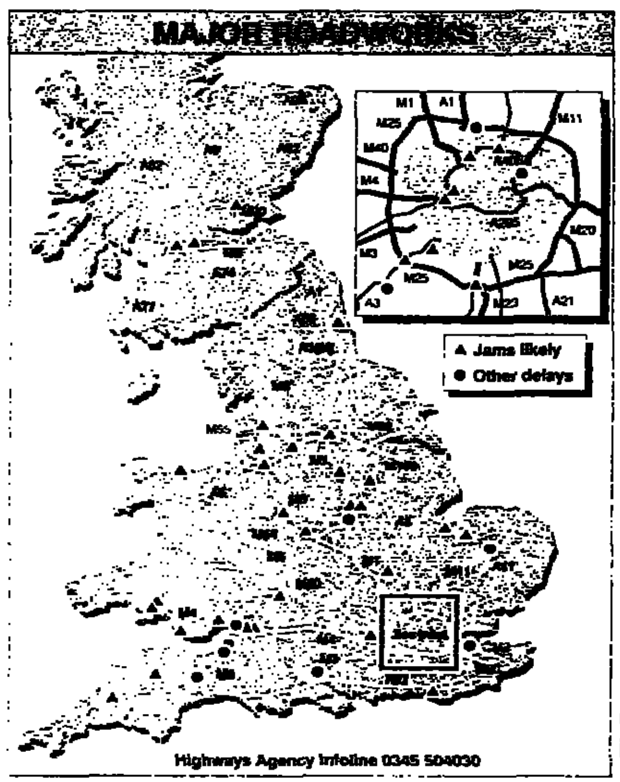
● **SCOTLAND**

M8 Strathclyde. Roadworks with lane closures in both directions between junctions 26 and 27.

A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge, Glasgow closed southbound for repairs.

M90 Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

NEWS IN BRIEF

Speed Viper

A MODIFIED Dodge Viper with a potential top speed of more than 250mph and anticipated acceleration of 0-60mph in under 3.5 seconds is among the attractions at the International Performance Motor Show at Olympia this weekend. Autotronics of Salisbury have fitted the car with twin turbos to its 8-litre V10 engine, which are designed to produce 800bhp, almost twice the power of the standard car. Show information: 01689 890022.

Single attractions

ONE OF last year's Tyrell Formula One cars is to join the Donington Park Grand Prix Collection beside the Derbyshire race circuit on Monday. The five halls contain more than 130 cars, some dating from the 1930s and including those raced by Moss, Senna, Fangio, Nuvolari and Prost, in the world's largest collection of single-seaters. Information: 01332 810048.

Toyota special

TOYOTA IS celebrating the 10th anniversary of its mid-engined MR2 sportscar by producing a special edition of just 250 in a choice of Caribbean Blue or Lucerne Silver called the MR2 GT T-Bar. With leather trim and interior, the car is equipped with a CD player to supplement the usual eight-speaker sound system. More than 27,279 of the popular pop-up headlamped car have been sold in Britain. The special edition costs £23,149.

Sales moving up

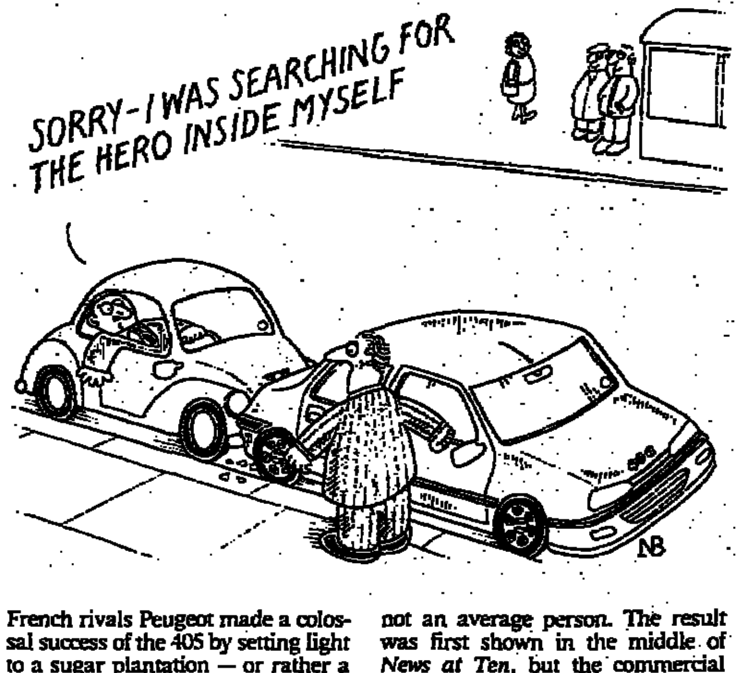
NEW CAR sales in western Europe are expected to gain momentum in the last few months of this year and total about 12.3 million, 2.6 per cent more than last year, according to the latest Motor Business report by the Economist Intelligence Unit. It forecasts that sales in Britain will show moderate growth to just short of the two million mark.

You must remember this, a kiss is still a kiss, a car is still a car . . . unless, of course, it's in a television commercial

Don't ask how much, this is art

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard


SORRY-I WAS SEARCHING FOR THE HERO INSIDE MYSELF
NB

Television commercials for cars used to be straightforward. A man (it was usually a man) stood in front of a car and told us what it would do, what features it had and how much it cost. We the customers understood these commercials, so naturally they had to be thrown away.

In their stead came a new breed. These are in part the product of the modern education system, particularly the fashion for going to university to read "media studies".

Media studies is a subject that often involves making videos, with the result that thousands of people started to leave university calling themselves film makers. Out in the real world, they found that there were a limited number of films to be made – and Quentin Tarantino was making nearly all of them anyway. But this didn't matter, because advertising agencies were paying more and more attention to their "creative directors". Interesting words, those, which imply artistic flair and corporate responsibility, as well they might. There is nothing a creative director enjoys more than to be thought creative while earning an astronomical salary.

Thus there was a coming together of creative people who enjoyed expensive restaurants, and creative graduates waiting for Tarantino to fall under a limousine. The result is Papa and Nicole, stars of the Renault Clio commercials in which virtually nothing is learnt about the car except what it looks like.

Not to be outdone by Renault, French rivals Peugeot made a colossal success of the 405 by setting light to a sugar plantation — or rather a model of one behind a model car — to the strains of "Take My Breath Away".

Now Peugeot has moved on, as you will have read in this and every other newspaper. The company's latest commercial, for the 406, is some kind of lifestyle piece of nonsense aimed at suggesting that if you buy the car you prove you are not an average person. The result was first shown in the middle of *News at Ten*, but the commercial itself was already news. There were hints that the 406 ad showed the first homosexual kiss in the history of television advertising.

I cannot claim to be very well-versed in the techniques of the homosexual kiss, but I cannot think that it routinely involves one man bending over another and squeezing the second man's nostrils together while their lips meet. I think this is something more likely to be found in a St John Ambulance manual than *Gay News*; I think it's the kiss of life.

Somebody at Peugeot coyly admitted in the lower reaches of the pre-commercial hype that the encounter "might be seen" as the kiss of life. But whether it is that, or a homosexual kiss, or a dentist extracting someone's teeth by using his own is not really the point. The point is that the 406 commercial is entirely consistent with that for the 405 — it tells us absolutely nothing about the car.

Now comes another trend: the commercial whose style debunks other commercials. The one for the Mitsubishi Carisma starts conventionally, with countryside backdrops and funky music, but a voiceover gradually removes the backdrop, the music and the fancy photography, leaving just the car.

This would be a welcome trend, where it not for two things. First, we learn no more about the Carisma than we do about the 406, the 405 and the Clio. Second, the deliberate mis-spelling of "charisma" is part of another distressing trend, that which encourages illiteracy.

At least it can be said that Mitsubishi is slowly moving the car commercial towards a time when it may consist of information rather than fancy images. Next thing you know, we shall see a man in front of a car telling us some facts . . .

A Mazda grille and a few creases on the bonnet are virtually all that separate the new 121 from the Ford Fiesta

Different name, yet essentially the same

Edward Francis on a model from Dagenham with an identity crisis

The Mazda 121 has not exactly caused a riot in Britain. The first (1988-91), a routine but overpriced super-mini notable for a huge fabric sunroof option, is now available as the Kia Pride. The second (1991-95) was a blob-shaped car, small and tall, available only with automatic transmission, and again pricey.

Both were little more than a marketing gesture from a firm constrained by trading quotas, and Mazda understandably preferred to make up its numbers with larger and more profitable models. So the 121 sold in a dribble, reaching a total of only 2,500.

Now Mazda is poised to get serious about the B-segment. Its third 121, being built in Dagenham for an April launch, is a thinly-disguised version of the top-selling Fiesta, which led the January best-sellers and is in such demand that production of some Mazda versions has been delayed. No newcomer could have a more propitious provenance.

Why Ford and Dagenham? Ford owns 25 per cent of Mazda, the two share technologies worldwide, and Mazda makes Ford-badged cars for Pacific Rim markets, so a working arrangement is well established.

Mazda needed a European manufacturing base to stay in step with its Japanese rivals, and Britain is a prime location for such a base. Mazda also needed a proper B-segment platform, and Dagenham is Ford's lead plant for Fiesta. The production of the 121 at Dagenham appears to have been inevitable, and Mazda people have murmured that success could imply Escorts from Halewood with the Mazda badge.

From Ford's point of view, Dagenham's importance will be enhanced – even though no more jobs are involved – by the production of 25,000 121s a year alongside the Fiesta. This will carry Dagenham production over the 200,000-a-year mark, the highest in modern times.

So, if the new Mazda 121 is all about modern industrial tactics, how will it fare against its own sibling? It will appeal (say those murmurers) to motorists who fancy a Fiesta but do not warm to the blue oval badge. Of the annual Dagenham output, at least 5,000 will sell in Britain and the rest in EU markets.

Several customer targets have been identified — those to be won over from other makes, owners of previous 121 models, previous 323 owners, young first-time buyers and those who run bigger Mazdas and need second cars.

Buying Mazda (£7,885 to £10,995) instead of Fiesta (£7,145 to £10,630, including a lower order old-style Classic range still built in Spain), will mean a different grille, a couple of creases in the bonnet, side rubbing strips, a rear hatch strip, power steering in every model and a three-year warranty. It also means a friendly local Mazda dealer instead of a friendly Ford one, although Mazda's 155-strong network compares poorly — as does everyone else's — with Ford's 1,000 outlets.

In on-the-road terms, the differences between the 121 and Fiesta are negligible, something openly welcomed by Mazda since the Fiesta in the substantially revised form launched at the London Motor Show last October has been widely praised for intrinsic and dynamic improvements.

The 121 benefits, therefore, from a comely combination of a familiar shape enhanced by additional curves, including fashionably tumescent bumpers and headlamps that are no longer almond-eyed. The almond era persists inside however, with carefully integrated ovoid styling to many control area features. Despite this observance, instruments are conventional and controls simple and handy.

The first 121s to emerge have the 1.25-litre "Zetec" light alloy unit with 16 valves, double overhead camshaft, emissions that meet forthcoming limits, low maintenance schedules and new mountings to isolate the engine from the body.

Revving up to 6,500rpm and not sounding stressed even then, this 75ps engine provides 0-30mph in 3.5 seconds and 0-60 in 12, although 50mph in second gear and 80 in third are a better indication of how the car can hold its own.

On the motorway, 70mph cruising involves 3,400rpm in fifth, at which point the engine is unheard above the ever-moderate wind and road noise. Indicated maximum in fourth is 104mph, in fifth 106. The Euromix petrol consumption is 42.8mpg.

Ride is not the most refined in this class but still comfortable. If a touch bouncy over poor surfaces, the suspension rounds off ruts quite effectively and does not remark the longer undulations. The lightly elastic steering offers negligible feedback and the hurrying driver can sweep through the bends with confidence. A fast, vicious corner should provoke no more than a squawk of rubber.

MAZDA 121

Engines: 16-valve, 1.25-litre petrol producing 75ps, 1.3-litre petrol producing 60ps, 1.8-litre diesel producing 60ps

Transmission: 5-speed manual or variable automatic.

Performance: 1.25-litre, 0-60mph in 12.0 secs, max 107mph; 1.3-litre, 0-60mph in 15.7 secs, max 99mph; diesel, 0-60 in 15.6 secs, max 97mph.

Economy: Euro cycle, 1.25-litre 43mpg; 1.3-litre 43.4mpg; diesel 49.2mpg.

Equipment: power steering, immobiliser, side protection bars, driver's airbag, deadlocks.

Prices: 1.3 GXi three-door £7885; 1.25 ZXi three-door £9485, five-door £9940; 1.8 DXi three-door £8340.

Beverley Golden with the antis

Beaulieu's shrine to the motor car sees the vote go against it

JONATHAN PORRITT, former Director of Friends of the Earth, is frank if nothing else. He had arrived at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu, Hampshire, to take a stand against the automobile in a debate entitled "Have we gone too far in the car?".

He began with an admission: he had been driven to Beaulieu, and earlier that day had visited the protesters campaigning against the Newbury bypass. He had gone there by car, too. It reinforced his point: we have become over-dependent on the car and given it a psychological stranglehold over us.

As he did not own a car he was constantly reminded that, "I am inadequate — although, looking at the size of the car bonnets in the museum here, I wonder about the adequacy of the people who drove them," he said. "We have to accept that pedestrians and cyclists are real human beings." It was not until 1994 that "the DoT at last admitted that walking was a mode of transport".

Nor was Porritt content to accept manufacturers' efforts to make cars more environmentally-friendly. "Every year 40 million cars roll off the production line. By the year 2003 or 2004 there will be 1 billion cars on planet Earth," he warned. What he had seen at Newbury "brought me up against a surreal world" which he described as "the last thrashing of the road dinosaur".

GRAHAM Carter, Director of the Countryside Education Trust, reminded the audience that traffic problems have been around for a very long time. Even the Romans knew of them, he said quoting from Julius Ceasar: "All night I could not sleep for the sound of traffic."

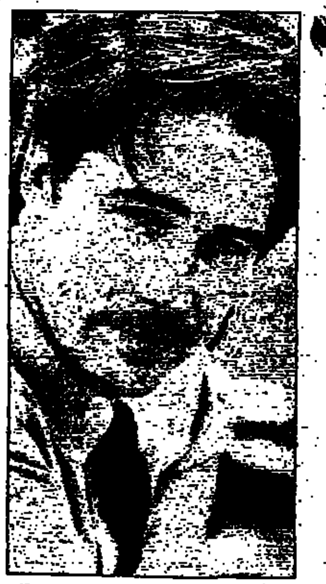
The case for bypasses was put by Neil Johnson, Chief Executive of the RAC, who said he walked to work. He added that Britain had the worst record of improving roads in Europe. He thought bypasses relieved hard-pressed communities and bemoaned the fact that the Government had just removed 22 bypasses from the roads programme.

The debate coincided with the launch of a campaign by the RAC and AA for motorists to be told just how much of the taxes they pay go towards transport. Johnson rejected the idea that motorists were uncaring about the environment: RAC surveys showed that 80 per cent of members, while making it clear that they did not want to give up the freedom of the car, wanted policies that minimise environmental impact.

Sue Taite, from the New Forest branch of Friends of the Earth, called Britain a nation of car junkies. She argued that the Government should pass a Road Traffic Reduction Bill, committing itself to reducing car use by 10 per cent of the 1990 level by 2010.

Mike Rutherford, transport journalist, lauded the car for the freedom it gave to individuals and said the problem was that not enough was spent on roads. The M3 link around Winchester, a source of tremendous local opposition when it was built a few years ago, "should have been put in a tunnel under Twyford Down" rather than carved through it, he said.

Some of the audience gave substance to Porritt's surreallist view of the transport world in rather unlikely ways. An owner of a gym said she could not extend her facilities to help people get fit because she could not provide extra car parking spaces.



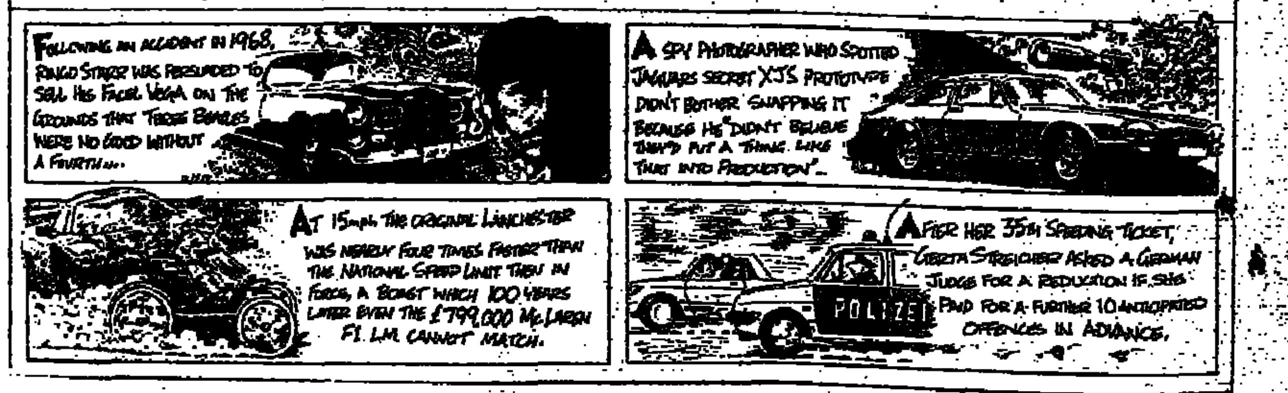
Porritt: "Pedestrians and cyclists are human beings"

Stuart Reynolds, Chief Transport Planner for Hampshire County Council, admitted afterwards that he started his career planning the M3 link around Winchester — but seeing the road carved through Twyford Down "now makes me wonder".

Reynolds admitted feeling frustrated in trying to introduce alternative schemes because the same public consultation procedure applied to them as it did to building new roads. A vociferous minority could scupper plans.

Porritt's motion was carried by a large majority. Lord Montagu, who had boldly agreed to host the event in his shrine to the car, voted against.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans


FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT IN 1968, RINGO STARR WAS PERSUADED TO SELL HIS FACEL VEGA ON THE GROUNDS THAT THOSE BEATLES WERE NO GOOD WITHOUT A FOURTH...
A SPY PHOTOGRAPHER WHO SPOTTED JAGUAR'S SECRET XJS PROTOTYPE DIDN'T BOTHER SNAPPING IT BECAUSE HE "DIDN'T BELIEVE THEY'D PUT A THING LIKE THAT INTO PRODUCTION"...
AT 15mph THE ORIGINAL LANCHESTER WAS NEARLY FOUR TIMES FASTER THAN THE NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT THEN IN FORCE, A BOAST WHICH 100 YEARS LATER EVEN THE £799,000 McLAREN F1 LM CANNOT MATCH.
AFTER HER 35th SPEEDING TICKET, GRETA STREICHER ASKED A GERMAN JUDGE FOR A REDUCTION IF SHE PAID FOR A FURTHER 10 ANTICIPATED OFFENCES IN ADVANCE.
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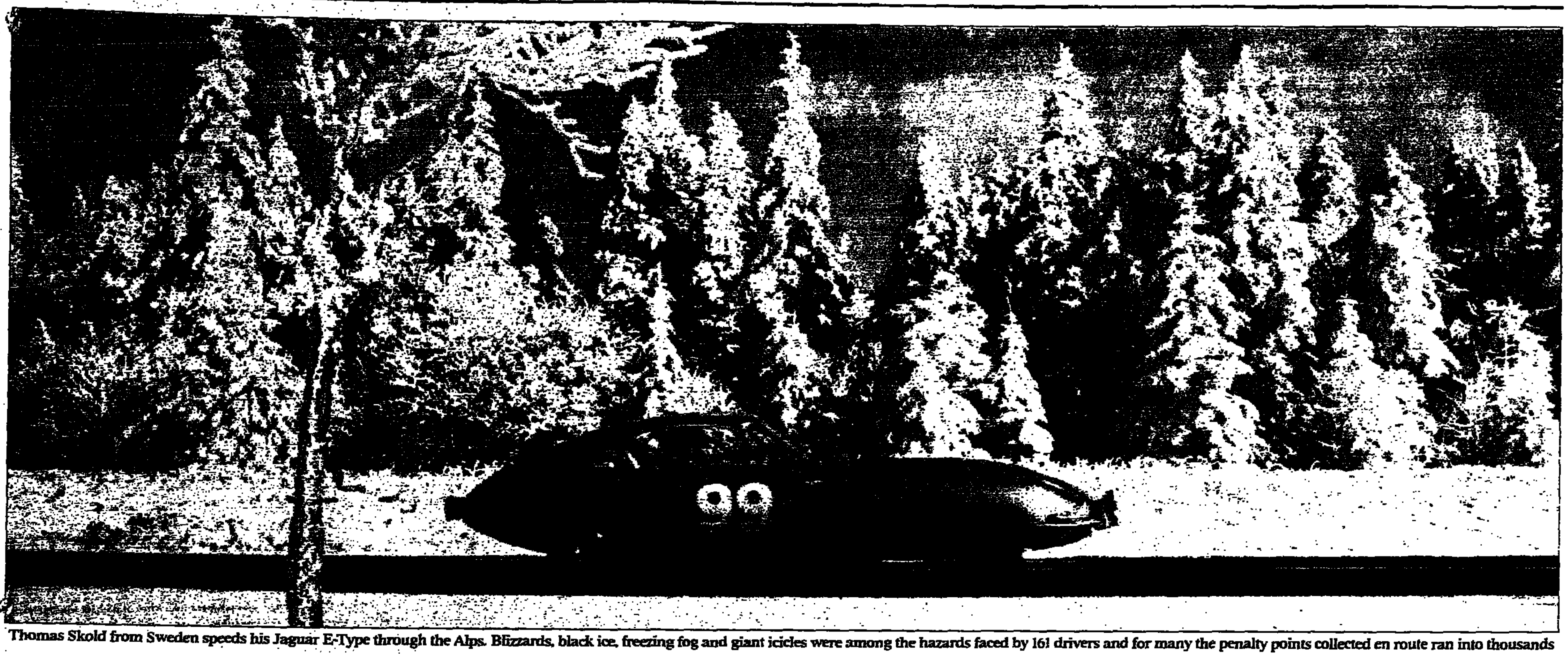


Thomas Skold from Sweden speeds his Jaguar E-Type through the Alps. Blizzards, black ice, freezing fog and giant icicles were among the hazards faced by 161 drivers and for many the penalty points collected en route ran into thousands

If you thought our winter was bad . . .

Philip Young reports on the winners and gallant losers who endured the demanding Monte Carlo Challenge

Blizzards and driving snow, black ice, freezing fog, hail and skin-numbing rain . . . all of them hit competitors who set out for the sunshine of Monaco in the 7th Monte Carlo Challenge. Icicles by the metre hung off rock faces as drivers of classic and vintage cars snaked their way through Alpine passes.

And the weather took its toll. A total of 161 drivers set out with high hopes on the 1,500-mile journey from five venues — Bristol, Noordwijk in Holland, Stockholm, Oslo and St Moritz — but more than 50 arrived out of time. At the start in the warmth of Bristol's Swallow Royal Hotel, a simple average of 32mph seemed straightforward. But no driver managed to reach the most famous finishing ramp in rally history with a "clean sheet", and for some penalty points ran into thousands.

"It's been highly authentic and the best Monte so far," said Colin Frances, veteran navigator and top British finisher who guided Spanish driver Ignacio Sunsundegi to second spot overall in a "fin tail" Mercedes 220. "But it has been mighty tough."

Some crews had no heaters, some in the pre-Second World War category were wrapped in flying jackets and scarves, with no roofs, no windscreens, and a few even had braking on the rear wheels only. "Downhill descents are more exciting than skiing," said David Brock-Jest in the polished aluminium AC tourer of 1922, before engine problems forced him to a halt. The category was won by a well-driven Delahaye from Austria.

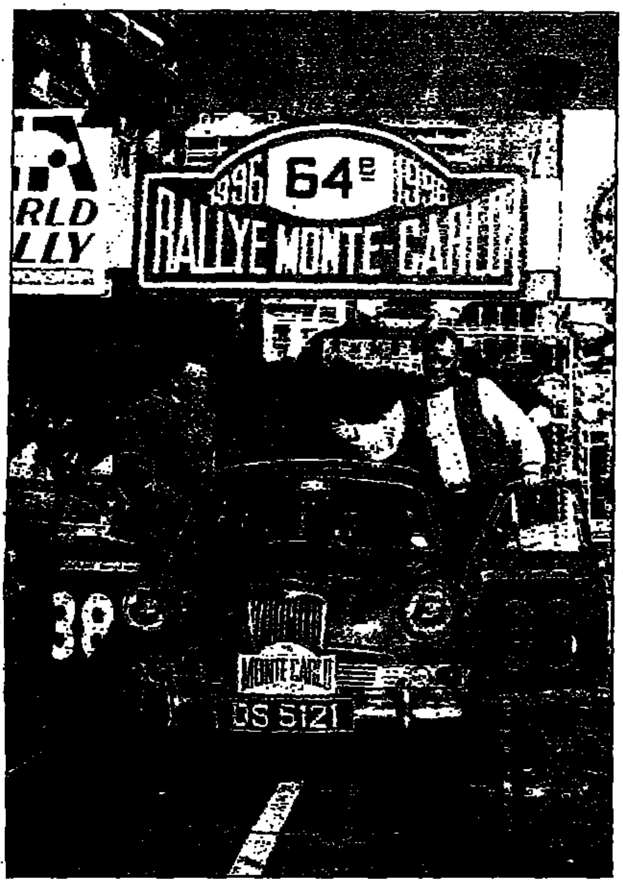
Another casualty was Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, whose Riley 1.5 suffered a broken differential just outside Monte Carlo. He and co-driver Andre Tammes made it to the finish line on the back of a truck, but that meant they did not qualify among the official finishers.

There were 19 nationalities in what has now become the biggest historic rally in Europe, with five countries in the top three cars. All the top three were German this year, with another Mercedes 220 — driven by Norway's Monty Karlan — winning outright, a reminder of the snowy Monte Carlo of 1960 when Mercedes romped home with a 1-2-3 clean sweep. In third spot was the former United States champion John Buffum, with ex-RAC Rally winner Neil Wilson on the maps in a little Porsche 356.

In winning the Ladies' Award, Alexandra Holt from Weymouth, Dorset, driving an MGA, maintained a unique record with her seventh straight Monte Carlo Challenge success; overall, she finished in 14th place.

But if old hands got their hands on the biggest cups, several novices also did well in the event. Nigel Cope in a Ford Anglia won the Novice Trophy, finishing 25th overall, just ahead of Chris Chalkley in a Riley 1.5.

"I was just a face in the crowd last year cheering them off, and I thought I could do this," he recalled. "So I found an old car, spent a day at the Rally School put on by the Classic Rally Association to bone up on the map work, and here we are in Monte Carlo, only a dent in the front wing as a reminder of early mistakes," said Nigel.



With a little help from their friends: Sir David Steel and Andre Tammes needed a lift to the finishing line

Another novice entry, the 1962 MGA MkII driven by David Townshend and Dick Owens, who had spent 1,000 hours preparing it for its rally debut, finished 79th, a very creditable position for a car which had 100,000 miles on the clock. It was a suitable reward for the two men, who had spent more than 1,000 hours rebuilding it from the chassis up, running up a total bill of £6,500-plus in the process.

Hard Luck Trophy went to Ralph Stross in a big green Blower Bentley. Pre-war cars are meant to drive an easier route, with fewer mountains and more relaxed timing. Paperwork was his downfall. "I think I must be dyslexic," he explained to officials on the finish ramp, having driven the full route, heedless of the fact that, due to blizzards, many of the higher cols had been cut out at the last minute with changes of route just to help drivers like him.

His tale of woe — and the fact that he had driven the full week with no windscreen — meant that he was the runaway winner of the Peeing-into-the Wind Trophy when it came to thawing out in the riotous party at the Hotel de Paris.

Epitomising the amateur status of classic rallying, Stephen Wild and James Cook, two mechanical engineers from Wiltshire, came last, driving the smallest car in the event, an Austin A30. They had bought it for £100, totally rebuilt it themselves and completed the whole route loaded with spares, luggage on the roof rack and at a top speed of 55mph.

Forced to stop almost every hour to pack snow around the radiator to prevent the car from boiling over, their efforts were rewarded with a standing ovation at the prizegiving, when they received the Spirit of the Rally Award.

One of the Concours Award winners for best prepared and most authentic cars was Andrew Actman from Penge, south London in a Sebring Sprite. He was following in the footsteps of his father, Sam, who drove Sprites in the Monte Carlo Rallies of the 1960s.

The Monte Carlo Challenge is the closest anyone gets these days to recapturing the magic of the 1950s and 1960s when it was regarded as one of the supreme tests of car and driver. Peter Miller, one competitor from those days recalls that in the 1965 event competitors who started from Minsk were expected to face the same rigorous timetable as others, although the border guards on their route across Eastern Europe had clearly been given no instructions to co-operate.

Even getting to the start proved a trial, with a three-hour delay on entry to East Germany, no road markings on the eastern autobahn and poor signposting which resulted in a wrong turning. Miller and his co-driver were promptly arrested on suspicion of spying by a police patrol and were only allowed on their way after paying a bribe of 200 Western cigarettes.

On that occasion, in some of the most severe weather encountered in the event's history, just 35 cars from 252 starters throughout Europe made the finish.

The rally, sponsored by Heritage Insurance, is organised by the Classic Rally Association, also organisers of the Peking-Paris Motor Challenge. Tel: 01235 851291.

Someone, somewhere is checking the database . . . it's time they bought a new car. **Sue Baker** explores the world of direct selling

Remember, they know where you live

Two features distinguished the unexpected doorstep caller. One was a broad, toothy smile, the other a discreet clipboard. Could I spare a few moments to be involved in some market research? "We're talking to car owners who drive recent registration models . . ."

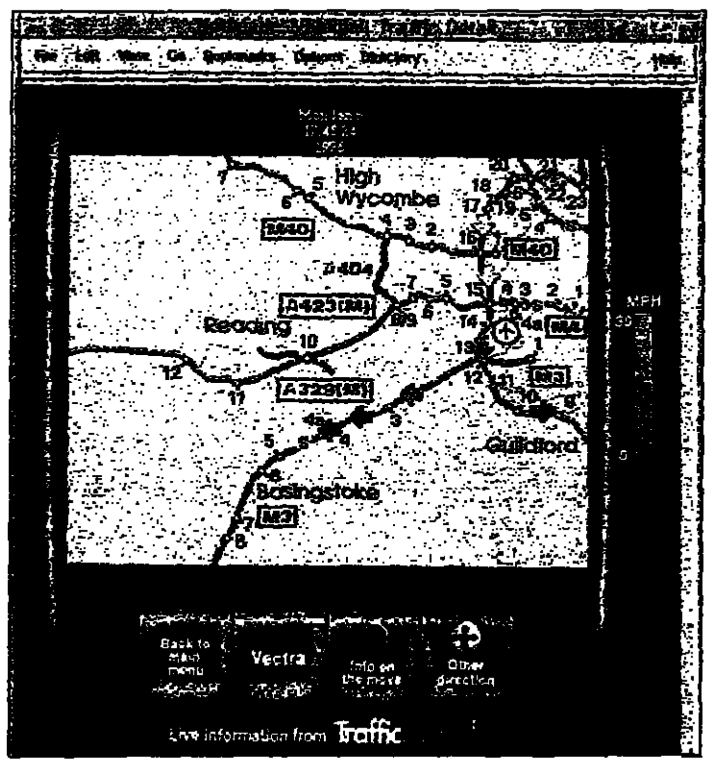
She glanced meaningfully over her shoulder at the N-registration Ford in my driveway. It was a road-test car awaiting collection, but Ms Toothy Smile could not know that. Neither could she be blamed for this being the third interruption within a fortnight (the other two by phone) from market researchers eager to quiz me about my motoring habits and future car-buying intentions.

Finding out precisely what we drive, why, and when we will next want to upgrade to a newer model has become a sharp spearhead of carmakers' marketing activity. Doorstep and telephone callers seeking this information on their behalf are becoming a familiar phenomenon.

Every day, in newspapers and magazines, tempting competitions woo car owners to reveal the model they currently possess and to volunteer not just the year but even the month when they anticipate changing it. Every time you buy a new household appliance, the guarantee questionnaire quizzes you to extract the same details.

An increasingly ferocious car marketing war is being waged to capture our attention, and hopefully our custom, next time around. Manufacturers, partly spurred by the erosion of private buyers in a largely stagnant new car market, are placing a growing reliance on direct marketing activity to stimulate sales.

Ford's marketing director, Tom Pallister, confirms that my recent flurry of encounters with car market researchers is by no means unusual: "What you are experiencing is entirely true. This kind of activity is increasing. We are seeing a lot of activity from our competitors on direct mail, and we have been at it for several years ourselves."



Fiat's Internet commercial for the Bravo/Brava and the Trafficmaster page from Vauxhall's Internet site — anyone responding becomes another target for direct marketing

Over the past three to four years, Ford's direct marketing has been growing by 10 to 15 per cent a year, Pallister reveals. He takes pride in Ford having one of the most extensive databases in the industry. "It probably runs to one-and-a-half million people, and we make good use of it. But we do not cold mail. It is all very carefully targeted, and we are continuously researching to keep it that way.

"We try to bespoke communicate to the individual and address his or her lifestyle directly. We have gone out in the past on a scattergun approach and it is a waste of money."

Names on the database include existing owners, those who have asked for information about the cars, and lists bought in from firms that specialise in collating them. A recent example of the increasing sophistication with which carmakers now target potential customers was the research Ford carried out for the launch of the Galaxy. It surveyed 49,000 new car buyers to build up a detailed profile of who might buy the new model, so it would know who to approach.

Vauxhall also acknowledges the trend towards a much more direct approach to find more customers. Direct marketing manager, Paul Harrison, says his company's use of this type of activity has grown by 40 per cent over the past five years.

"The most important thing is to give people the appropriate message at the correct time," he adds. "We try to identify when people are coming up to the replacement cycle, and contact them at the right point. Direct marketing pays off because it gets results."

Vauxhall has eagerly embraced new technologies to add muscle to its direct approach. When launching the Vectra, it sent out information to target customers on CD-Rom. It was the first car manufactuer in the UK to exploit the Internet; as well as setting up its own pages featuring the Vectra and Frontera, it has used sponsorship of the Trafficmaster page to target business drivers, who are then wooed across to browse the product pages. Anyone responding to the Internet pages becomes another target for direct marketing.

Any new model launch now inevitably brings with it a fresh surge of direct marketing activity. When Citroën launches its new Saxo small hatchback in May, owners of similar models can expect their phones to start ringing.

Marc Raven, Citroën's public affairs director, says that as part of the launch campaign, "we will telemarket, that is phone people we have reason to believe might be interested in it, and offer them information and a test drive. It's a very cost-effective way of reaching people, and it's growing."

At Rover, product communications director Denis Chick says his company's use of direct approaches to potential customers has changed rather than grown. "We are not actually doing it more than we have in the past, but we are now doing it a lot better.

"Like the rest of the industry, we used to shoot out a huge volume of junk mail. But there is no point in something which goes straight through the letterbox and into the dustbin. Over the past 18 months we have done a lot of work on targeting what we send to make it much more directly relevant to the person receiving it."

So that unexpected voice at the end of the line may be trying to sell you a Rover. Do people really welcome such calls, or do others, like me, find them an irritating intrusion in a working day?

"We tend to do most of our calls in the evening, when people are more likely to be at home and not working," says Chick. "And we find we do get very positive responses. It wouldn't be worth doing unless it worked — and it does."

AD AWARDS

Renault wins with Papa and Nicole

LOVE THEM or hate them, Nicole and her Papa make a bigger impact on the motoring public than any other characters in car advertising, *writes Alan Copps*. The stars of that little soap opera which sells the Renault Clio helped the company to a second successive win in the "best advertising" category of awards made by *Complete Car* this week.

According to a poll of the magazine's readers nearly 40 per cent of women mentioned the television commercial favourably. But that verdict came hard on the heels of another survey that concluded that women detested almost all car ads because they were patronising. The respondents in that survey, carried out by Condé Naste, publishers of *Vogue* and *Tatler*, singled out the "insulting" Renault ad for criticism.

The *Complete Car* awards are voted by 470,000 readers of 12 sister titles throughout Europe. Renault was voted best advertiser in five countries. In Britain, VW was second followed by BMW, Ford, Volvo and Rover.

Daewoo, the Korean company which introduced its revolutionary direct-selling methods here only last year, was seventh. It was also voted the best value-for-money.

In Britain votes for the best car in nine categories were:

- Compact, VW Polo
- Small family, Peugeot 306
- Medium family, Audi A4
- Large family, BMW 5-Series
- Luxury, Jaguar XJ6/12
- Sports, Aston Martin DB7
- Convertible, Rover MGF
- Off-road, Range Rover
- MPV, Ford Galaxy.

Peter Barnard: p2

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95 N 80 2.6 Auto Saloon, ABS, SE spec, boot spoiler, Volcano Black	£18,995
95 N A4 1.6 SE, s/roof, Velvet Blue	£16,995
95 M A4 1.8, Volcano Black Metallic	£15,995
95 N 80 1.6 Estate, ABS, PAS, s/roof, Amazon Green	£13,495
92 K 80 TDi Saloon, s/roof, ABS, alarm, PAS, Red	£10,995
96 N A6 2.5 TDi SE Auto, Air con, cruise, leather, Amazon	£POA
96 N Coupe 2.6 Air con, leather, walnut, Kingfisher	£POA

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96N AUDI A8 3.7 SPORT SALOON Aluminium Silver Anthracite Leather Electric Front + Rear Seats With Drivers Memory Climate Control Solar Sunroof Cruise R/Locking Bose Sound R/BlindHLW Alarm 6CD 18" AW 650 mls ......£POA

95M AUDI 80 S2 ESTATE Volcano Black Recaro Electric Seats RS2 Front Bumper + Spoiler Aircon Cruise 300BHP Conversion S/Suspension Super Tint Glass S/S/Wheel Alcon Performance Brakes Scorpion 5000 Alarm 17" AW 6,500 mls ......£POA

95M AUDI S6 AUTO ESTATE Ragussa Green Anthracite Leather Climate Control P/S/Roof Additional Rear Seats Cruise Self Levelling Suspension H/Seats H/Locks H/L/Wash 6CD Scorpion 5000 Avus AW 13,100 mls ......£POA

93L AUDI 80 S2 ESTATE 94MOD Emerald Green Pearl Black Leather S/Seats Airbag Aircon Walnut E/Sunroof H/Seats H/Locks Alarm Avus AW 28,600 mls ......£POA

95M AUDI 2.6E AUTO CONVERTIBLE Brilliant Black Black Power Hood Ecru Leather S/Seats Walnut Lumbar Adjusters Alarm Wind Deflector ABS Airbag 10 Spokes 7,900 mls £POA

94M AUDI 2.6E AUTO CONVERTIBLE Kingfisher Blue Black Power Hood Black Jacquard Satin S/Seats ABS PRO10 EWx4 EDM CDL Tints Alarm 10 Spokes 5,600 mls £23,750

95M AUDI 2.6E CONVERTIBLE Crystal Silver Black Hood Black Jacquard Satin S/Seats Airbag ABS EWx4 EDM CDL Tints Alarm Stereo 10 Spokes 5,100 mls £22,495

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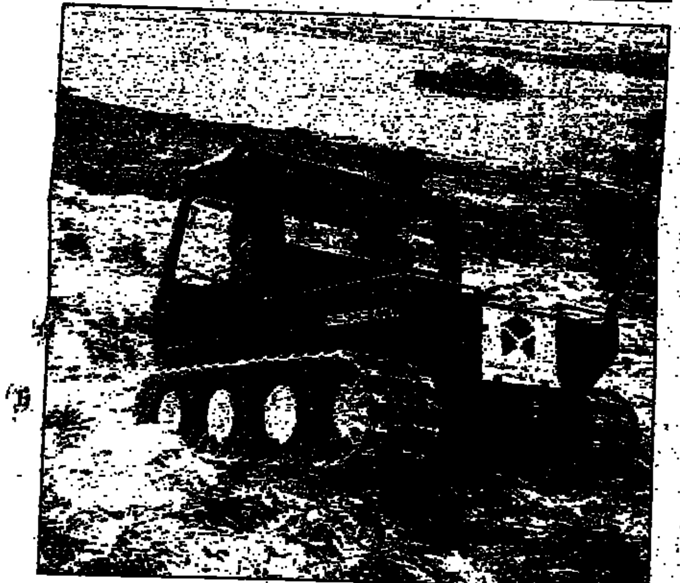
هكذا من الأصل

Born in Scotland, the Glencoe and Glenalmond all-terrain vehicles travel very well. **Alan Jabez** reports

ALAN JABEZ

Making progress: Scot-Track's Marketing Manager, Michael Cullen, checks the Glencoe's grip on the Cairngorms, among the most inhospitable mountain terrain in Britain

Tracking the world market



Rising to the occasion: the Glencoe has no difficulty tackling hills so steep that climbers would struggle

Engine: V-twin cylinder, overhead valve 25 bhp petrol.
Transmission: Two- speed gearbox and heavy duty torque converter.
Performance: Max speed 20mph, but will climb a 35 degree slope with ease.
Equipment: Comes with optional tracks and floats, tip-up back, crane or digger mounting. Disc brakes.
Fuel tank capacity: 45 litres (approx five litres/hour).
Price: £8,950 excluding VAT (tracks, £1,800 extra)

Hands up those who can name a British vehicle manufacturer which only sold its first model in the late 1980s, but has subsequently won orders from around the globe. Customers have ranged from the emergency services in Britain, to a Texan-based oil company, Middle Eastern armed forces, an Indian theme park and relief workers operating in the mountains of Afghanistan.

This manufacturer is not based in the motor heartland of the English Midlands or the south of Essex, but close to lochs and rolling green hills in the far north of Scotland.

However, this may be the company's ideal location, as Scot-Track manufactures a range of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) which go much farther than any standard four-wheel drive.

I was invited to take the company's top-of-the-range model — the nine-seater (three in the cab and six in the back), eight-wheeled Glencoe — for a punishing ride close to the Cairngorms — among the most inhospitable mountain terrain in Britain. After loading the vehicle on to the back of a lorry, we drove to a huge, private estate where the land was so rough there was only a narrow lane to get there and not a house or cottage in sight.

To add a sense of drama, there was a biting wind in the air and freezing snow on the ground. But the Glencoe scampered up the rock-strewn hillside like a puppy playing in a garden.

Admittedly, we were only travelling a few miles an hour, but when you are ascending a hill so steep that many walkers would struggle to get up it, what matters is reaching the top, not the time it takes to get there. With its wide tracks, the Glencoe could climb a slope of 1:1, I was told — although that was not something I was willing to try.

Nonetheless, I doubt there is any terrain the aptly-named Glencoe will not traverse, including quicksand, peat bogs and deep ditches. It even has floats, so the vehicle can go straight into the water.

With hydraulic transmission and a hydrostatic steering system, the controls couldn't be easier. I had two levers between my knees which I pushed forward to go forward, and pulled back to reverse. To turn round, I simply held one lever steady, while pushing the other. Braking was nothing more complicated than keeping the levers together in neutral.

There was excellent visibility through the Perspex window ahead, although with only a canvas canopy, there was not much protection from the cold wind at the side.

There was not much protection either from the bumps and bruises. As there is no suspension to speak off, I learnt to keep a firm grip on the steel safety frame every time we tackled any serious sized objects. The frame also offers protection in the unlikely event of the vehicle rolling over.

Priced at £24,000, the turbo-charged Glencoe is the company's most expensive model. A cheaper ATV is the Glenalmond, costing only £16,000 and boasting a maximum speed of 20mph (on the flat). The primary difference is that the Glencoe's extra power means it can perform many more industrial tasks. The range of uses for both vehicles, as well as their durability, is the prime reason they are becoming so popular.

The Army has recently confirmed its first order for these vehicles, joining other high-profile customers such as several fire brigades, the Northern Constabulary, which patrols the Highlands and Islands, the National Trust, Forestry Commission, British Telecom, electricity boards and the National Rivers Authority, as well as a number of estate managers.

Many customers request special modifications before delivery so that the vehicles can undertake very specific tasks. So far, these have included accessories to enable them to sweep for mines in war zones of the Middle East, clear snow from roads in the North of Scotland and lift and carry heavy logs in several remote forests.

> It can traverse quicksand, peat bogs, ditches — and float

Farmers are also becoming interested. They are especially attracted by the option of the extra-soft "marshmallow" tyres (instead of tracks) which cause virtually negligible damage to the land.

The company's other models include a range of high-speed all-terrain go-karts and what is believed to be the world's only multi-purpose, off-road wheelchair. Now following the success of the Glencoe and the Glenalmond, Scot-Track is about to launch its latest model, the Hillcat. Priced at less than £10,000, this is primarily aimed at land owners with lesser needs and smaller resources. It does have a few new, novel features though, such as a removable rear door which makes it much easier to load large animals or other heavy objects on to the back seats. However, like the Glencoe and Glenalmond, it also has easy to remove tracks to increase its capabilities.

Scot-Track was founded in 1987 by Sandy Reid, who had been working as the distributor of a French ATV. But he felt that it had a number of design faults and approached the makers asking if he could make certain changes. They refused, so he set about designing his own vehicle. He found support from a British-educated Iranian engineer, Manochehr Salek, who was willing to move to the Moray Firth and equally keen to turn the Scottish vehicle concept into reality.

Although there was no recognised workforce with motor vehicle experience in the area, there was a large pool of skilled labour from the nearby oil industry who were willing to retrain. The result is that more than 300 vehicles have so far been built and the company is now practically bursting out of its small premises in the corner of an industrial estate on the outskirts of Nairn between Inverness and Aberdeen.

Given the company's remote location, its success is perhaps all the more remarkable. Marketing manager Michael Cullen says that in their first few years it was easier to attract overseas buyers as they would simply land at Heathrow and catch the next connecting flight to Inverness. By contrast, he believes many potential British customers were put off by the thought of having to make the long journey across Britain to visit a company few people had heard of. But once Scot-Track made the decision to attend more "outdoor" shows and news of the vehicles' capabilities got around, inquiries have barely stopped.

Demand is now so great that the company is already in discussion with an entrepreneur in Ecuador about an assembly arrangement which would give it a low-cost entry into the potentially huge South American market.

Completely cleared of all charges after a six-month sentence

Stuart Birch is converted to the attractions of diesel by Volkswagen's Golf GL TDI

The Golf GL TDI: after 6,000 miles, I have to confess to at least a partial change of religion: I am now a diesel believer

The reality of it dawned gradually: six months' driving a diesel-engined car. Would I get time off for good behaviour? Would there be parole so I could drive a petrol car sometimes? And there was the prospect of all those jokes: "I didn't order a taxi", or, "I could have sworn I heard a truck . . ."

With all this in mind, it was with mixed feelings that I took delivery of a 1.9-litre Volkswagen Golf GL TDI (Turbo-charged Direct Injection) for a six-month relationship. But it looked good in red with colour-coded bumpers, and the posh GL trim level included powered windows, mirrors and sunroof. There was a Sony radio/cassette.

The words bright, fashionable and elegant, did not come immediately to mind to describe the interior. However, the driving seat and steering column had height adjustment, so I could sit in the semi-reclining position I prefer. The instruments were superbly clear and all the stalks and buttons seemed to be in the right places.

So I set it to work; the 90bhp engine injecting directly without a moment's pause, for this diesel leaves no time to do *The Times* crossword while waiting for glowplugs to heat. Now, after 6,000 miles of reliable Golfdiesling, I have to confess to at least a partial change of automotive religion: I am now a diesel believer.

The main reasons are threefold. First, the fuel gauge needle's grudging downward movement; consumption has not averaged less than 56mpg and once reached 66mpg. Second, preformance; it will move from 0-60mph in 11.5 seconds and has a top speed of 110mph. And, third, there is lots of engine torque, which means it pulls with vigour from not much more than a tickover.

The 66mpg was down to my wife's lightness of touch on the accelerator pedal commuting to work from our rural home into the London suburbs. The worst figure so far has been a little under 53mpg, when the Golf was used almost exclusively on motorways.

Refuelling a diesel car used to mean arrival at the office or some social event smelling like a refinery, because diesel pumps get mucky and pongy. Now most garages provide disposable gloves.

The Golf's ride is generally good, but handling could be better. The TDI is far from TDous to drive aand sometimes has an identity crisis, now knowing whether it is a GTi or a stolid diesel. In fact, it is a bit of a *schnellwagen* and deserves tauter suspension and sharper responses. It is expected to get both soon, along with the option of the 110bhp engine of the Audi A4.

General driveability is excellent, with muscular acceleration, even from very low engine speeds. This minimises gearchanges and is a big plus in city traffic, where instant response is often needed.

At anything more than low speed, when engine rattle is noticed (it has also suffered a different sort of rattle — from the fascia), the Golf's engine is quiet and very smooth; it is road and aerodynamic noise that let it down a little on the motorway. Its good manners in town are complemented by that fine, height-adjustable driving position.

The rear wash/wipe system's operation causes frustration: get it right and you may qualify for Mensa. The radio controls are insufferably small and the heater is rather slow to get really hot on very cold mornings. Interior and luggage space is reasonable and the rear seats are divided and folding.

Price is arguably a bit steep at £14,060 — but overall this diesel is a rattling good car.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GL TDI

Engine: Four-cylinder direct injection turbo-charged diesel, 90bhp, driving front wheels. Five-speed manual transmission.

Performance: 0-60mph in 11.5 seconds, average 58mpg.

Equipment: Driver's airbag and seat adjustment; central locking with security protection; powered sunroof, windows and door mirrors; rear head restraints.

Price: £14,060.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A racing start for new McLaren

McLAREN has sold all eight 1996 racing versions of its F1 Grand Tourer. The 1996 GTRs are updated versions of the car that won both the Le Mans 24-hour race and the Global GT Endurance championship in its debut season last year. Although new regulations restrict the 6-litre V12 BMW engine to 600bhp rather than 640bhp, other improvements make up for the power loss.

Korea opening

DAEWOO is to open its first showroom in Ulster in April, the Korean firm announced at the Ulster Motor Show which continues over this weekend. The one-acre site in Boucher Road, Belfast, will have touch-screen displays enabling customers to find out about its nine-car range.

Higher gear

THE RACY car magazine *Max Power* has overtaken the BBC's *Top Gear* as Britain's biggest-selling motoring monthly with a July-December circulation of 160,461.

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93L	Sov 4.0 A Regency, A/C,	39T	£22,995
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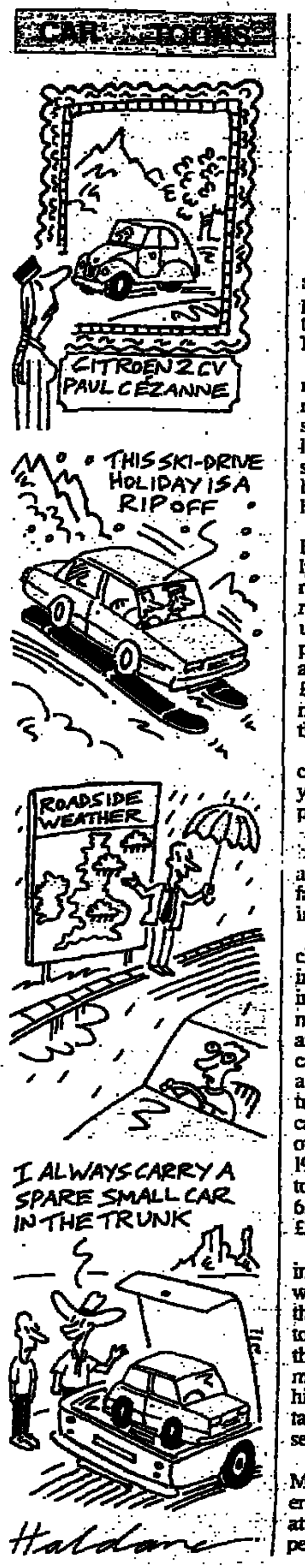
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Vaughan Freeman explains why second-hand cars will become increasingly popular

Sale goes on in the bargain basement

Used car buyers will enjoy five years of cheap deals with second-hand prices set to tumble this year, and prices overall rising only fractionally above today's bargain basement levels.

The forecast comes in a new report claiming that most motorists buy used not just to save money, but because cars less than a year or two old are seen as more reliable than a brand new vehicle that could have teething problems.

Low prices will benefit most British drivers. Industry analysts Market Facts and Business Information (MFBI) report that 80 per cent of all used car sales are of vehicles priced below £6,000, while the average stands at around £3,000. Used car sales outnumber new sales by more than three to one.

The cost of the average used car, says MFBI, which last year stood at £3,055, will fall 3 per cent this year to £2,965, and by 2000 will have crept back up only slightly to £3,135, a rise of less than 3 per cent, far below the projected rate of inflation.

Driven by market forces, the clamp on prices will go hand in hand with a huge increase in used car sales as the number of adult drivers rises and manufacturers move to cash in on the highly profitable second-hand car industry. MFBI forecasts that used car sales will rise 16 per cent over the next five years, from a 1995 total of 5.6 million at a total value of £16.9bn, to 6.45 million sales worth £20.2bn by 2000.

The quality of used cars will improve as manufacturers, who in recent years switched their focus from new car sales to "nearly-new" ones (vehicles that have spent three or four months on a daily rental or hire firm fleet) switch again to target their efforts on the second-hand market.

MFBI report author Robert Macnab says: "Manufacturers and franchised dealers are attempting to increase their penetration of the used car market, and to achieve this dealers need to sell a higher proportion of older and higher mileage used cars in the sub-£6,000 sector."

Why buy used rather than new? Macnab says: "Used car buyers are aware of the improvements manufacturers have made in the reliability and durability of cars produced in recent years, and are happy to accept higher mileage if they are confident that a car has been well maintained from new."

Despite more people buying used, prices will stay where they are now as manufacturers seek ways of coping with their huge over-capacity. Across Europe, new car sales total around 13 million annually, but production capacity is an estimated two million above that. Once cars have gone from manufacturers via rental fleets to retail customers as "nearly new" with fewer than 10,000 miles on the clock, they pass to the second-hand market a year or two later.

"There will be an increase in the supply of used cars due to an increase in new car registrations, and there will be a corresponding growth in volume demand," says Macnab. "This will be due to an increase in the size of the adult population, an increase in the number of households, and a continued growth in car ownership, particularly among women.

"This will be supported by an upturn in consumer spending from maturing Tessa accounts and building society mergers, and by shorter retention periods as vehicle usage and average annual mileage increases."

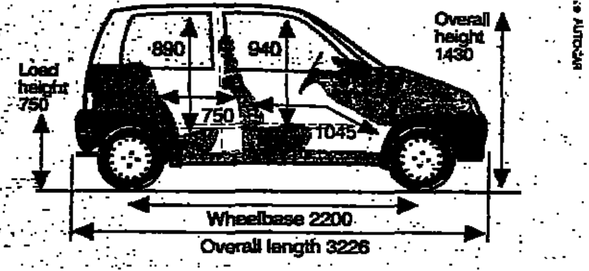
At the same time, knowledgeable buyers will demand more for less, putting pressure on franchised dealers to back their second-hand vehicles with watertight assurances. Macnab says: "The main concerns of used car buyers are quality and the protection provided by warranties. They want a guarantee or an assurance that a used car will not require major maintenance work shortly after they have purchased it.

"Used car warranties are perceived as not providing that assurance. Buyers want an unconditional guarantee that a used car will remain reliable, or defect-free, for a minimum period after purchase. Such an assurance would reduce the risk from buying a used car and add significant value to dealer used car sales."

USED CAR BRIEF

FIAT CINQUECENTO

Like Rover with the Mini, Fiat has a big history building small cars. From the "mighty mouse" Topolino to the rear-engined 126, small cars with Italian styling have been Fiat's forte, and the latest mini-incarnation is no exception. Chic, surprisingly capacious inside especially for the driver, the Polish-built Cinquecento 900S and 900SX were launched in 1993, both powered by the same four cylinder, 40bhp, 899cc pushrod engine derived from the Fiat 127. The 1.1-litre, 54bhp Sporting model with body-coded bumpers, and sports wheels was launched a year ago.



GOOD NEWS: Fiat beats the old Italians mean-rust tag with zinc-coated body panels on the Cinquecento, which gives the firm the confidence to back the Cinquecento with an eight-year anti-corrosion and a three-year paint warranty.

BAD NEWS: Gear shift can seem inaccurate leaving drivers unused to the feel wondering just what gear they have ended up in (Punto gearbox as used in the Sporting version is much better). Engine clatters and rattles on start up but quietens with use. Minimal luggage room with four passengers on board.

SAFETY: Quite a heavy car for its size, which is reflected in dawdling performance figures, but the upside to that is that the Cinquecento is solidly built, boasts firm brakes and good all-round vision.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT) clutch assembly £90; full exhaust £140; front damper £40; rear damper £25; front brakepads £25; alternator £140 (exchange); starter motor £130 (exchange); tyre £30-£40.

PRICES: Expect to pay £3,500 for a 1993 K-reg 900S, £3,900 for a 1994 L-reg 900S, £4,350 for an M-reg 900S, £3,900 for a 1993 K-reg 900SX, £4,300 for a 1994 L-reg 900SX, £4,900 for a 1995 M-reg SX, and £5,425 for a 1.1 Sporting.

LOOK FOR: Cars from 1994 got better equipment levels including illuminated switchgear, while SX model enjoys heated rear screen, reclining front seats and pop-open rear windows, electric windows, central locking and sunroof. Metallic paint is a £100 optional extra, but adds little to the cars value used.

AVOID: The base 900S model is pretty base. Creature comforts make all the difference the smaller the car, so go for the SX. Pre-1994 cars lack interior improvements. The 899cc engine is adequate but more powerful 1.1-litre Sporting is preferable for nippier in-town motoring and a quieter life on the motorway.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1993 Fiat Cinquecento SX costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £94 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with one year no claims living in south London pays £580, and a similar female pays £480.

OVERALL: Small car, big heart, the Cinquecento – with its sawn-off square back mixes neat design with surprising people-carrying capacity. With just two people on board that sawn-off back, big rear hatch and folding rear seats allow plenty of shopping room. Ideal as a second car or main nip-about for the city-based family.

50 POPULAR SELLERS

MODEL	PRICE Jan-96	PRICE Feb-96	Chge
Audi 80 2.0E 4dr	12950	12995	0.34
BMW 3161 4dr Auto	14395	14250	-1.00
BMW 318i Coupe	17095	16850	1.43
Citroën Xantia 2.0i LX 5dr	9225	9695	5.09
Citroën XM 2.0 VSX Turbo 5dr	13095	13095	0.00
Daihatsu Sportrak ELXi 3dr	11150	11150	0.00
Fiat Cinquecento SX 3 dr	4250	4225	-0.58
Ford Fiesta 1.1i LX 3dr	5995	5850	-2.41
Ford Escort 1.6i LX 5dr	8095	8195	1.23
Ford Mondeo 1.8i LX 4dr	8175	8250	0.91
Ford Granada 2.0i Ghia Cat 4dr	11850	11895	0.37
Honda Civic LSi 3 dr	9550	9250	-3.14
Honda Accord 2.0i ES 4dr	14650	14450	-1.36
Isuzu Trooper 3.1 Turbo Citation 5dr	19550	19550	0.00
Jaguar XJ6 3.2 Auto	19550	20000	0.25
Kia Pride 1.3 LX 5dr	4850	4850	0.00
Land Rover Discovery 3.9 V8i 3dr	15595	15550	-0.28
Land Rover Discovery 300 TDi 5dr	17450	17450	0.00
Range Rover Vogue SE 4dr Auto	27500	27250	-0.90
Lexus LS400 4dr Auto	34500	34250	-0.72
Mazda 323 1.6i GLX Fastback 5dr	9950	9995	0.45
Mazda MX-5 1.8i 2dr	13095	13250	1.18
Mercedes-Benz C180 Elegance 4dr AutoII	19795	19795	0.00
Mitsubishi New Shogun Diesel.5dr	21000	21000	0.00
Nissan 1.0LX 3dr	6195	5795	-3.55
Nissan Primera 1.6i SLX 5dr	9095	9175	0.87
Peugeot 106 1.1iXR 5dr	6175	6095	-1.29
Peugeot 306 1.4XR 5dr	8850	8875	0.28
Proton Persona 1.5GLi 5dr	7425	7450	0.33
Renault Clio RL 1.2 Prima 3dr	5725	5795	1.22
Renault Laguna 2.0 RT 5dr	10650	11095	4.17
Rover Metro 1.1 Quest 3dr	4450	4525	1.68
Rover 214si Cat 5dr	7750	7750	0.00
Rover 820si 4dr	11795	11795	0.00
Saab 9000csi 2.0 5dr	16295	16195	-0.61
Seat Ibiza 1.4 CLX 5dr	7095	6695	-5.63
Toyota Corolla 1.3 GLi 3dr	8325	8395	0.84
Toyota Carina E 1.6 XLi 5dr	8950	8975	0.27
Toyota MR2 GT 2dr	17195	17350	0.90
Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 LS 3dr	6350	6350	0.00
Vauxhall Astra 1.4 LS (82ps) 5dr	7595	7995	5.26
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Volkswagen Passat 1.8CL 4dr	9695	10095	4.12
Volvo 440 1.8 Li 5dr	7975	8095	1.50
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Mercedes-Benz S320 Auto	43750	44000	0.57
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CAP MOTOR RESEARCH LTD

*Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices HB = hatchback S = saloon Price changes based on M-reg, low mileage cars Figures supplied by **CAP Motor Research**.*

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Although nearly half of employers with company car schemes are now offering a cash alternative, only 10 per cent of employees take it up. The survey shows that 95 per cent of all employers provided company cars and of those 49 per cent offered a cash alternative, up from 28 per cent in 1993. Of those who did not offer the choice, 23 per cent said they were under pressure to do so. The average value of cash alternatives ranged from 26 per cent of list price for cars costing £40,000 to 43 per cent of list price for those costing £8,000.

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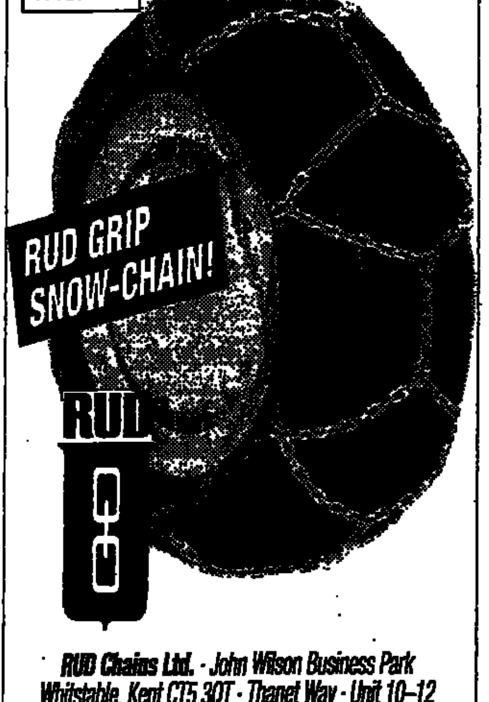

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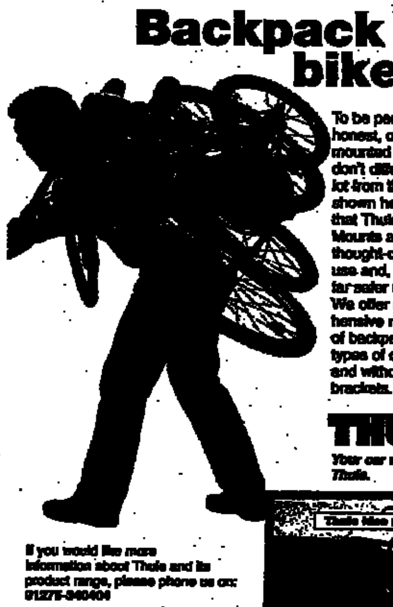

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Who's that blonde in the past of an American invader?

I remember Suki, Paul Gambaccini tells **Andrew Pierce**

He is, according to the tabloids, the most hated man on radio. It's an exaggeration, of course, but Paul Gambaccini's arrival on Radio 3 has provoked howls of outrage, even on the floor of the House of Commons.

Gambaccini, once Radio 1's youngest disc jockey, presents the much-maligned *Morning Collection* on the corporation's most reactionary channel. The Great Gambo, as he is known, co-author of the *Guinness Book of British Singles*, was accused of vandalism by Gerald Kaufman, pugnacious chairman of the Commons Heritage Select Committee.

Gambaccini, an accomplished classical pianist, has been accused of being egregious, patronising and a latter-day Liberace. His accent has not helped. He devotes only four minutes of his show to his own voice; the other 52 are music. But it is four minutes too much for his army of detractors. Many Radio 3 *aficianados* hope — and pray — that the American's days are numbered, but the BBC is standing by its man. For now.

How did you first learn to drive?

I took the driver education course at Staples High School in Westport, Connecticut, in 1965. I had just turned 16. The 1966 yearbook included an advertisement for the summer school which had a posed photograph of me examining a car engine with a blonde named Suki Fontilieu. Frankly, I was more interested in examining Suki.

What was your first car?

I am prepared for a chorus of serious shooting on this one. It was a crimson Plymouth Sport Fury. My father bought it for me to drive to school, which was a mile away. Such is the American way of life.

What car do you drive now, and why?

A BMW 316i. It was chosen for me by a friend who knows eight million times more about cars than I. He knew it would be perfect for someone who wants a comfortable drive without having to worry about how the thing runs (you see, I was concentrating on Suki Fontilieu). My own contribution was to ensure that it was silver.

Do you like driving?

In London at nights and at weekends. Driving in the week is anti-social and counter-productive. My stress level shoots up in traffic jams and I flatly refuse to drive on motorways. I lost my motorway virginity at 2.35am on my way back from a personal appearance. I was sleeping on the back seat when I was awakened by the impact on the front right corner. The object in collision then ricocheted off my back door. Our vehicle came to a halt. A lorry travelling in the opposite direction had shed a 6ft metal beam, which bounded across the central divider and headed straight towards us. It took no mathematical genius to know the combined speed of impact was in excess of 140mph. Never again.

What is your most hated car?

There is enough bad feeling in the world without starting to hate cars.

What is your dream car?

A Batmobile would be nice.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Causing fender benders. When second in a queue waiting to turn left in city traffic, I see the car in front starting to turn into the flow. I look right, then left, then look right again as I move forward. Wrong. Sometimes the lead car has had second thoughts and stopped in its tracks. It causes a fender bender every few years, as I have found to my cost.

GILL ALLEN

Paul Gambaccini and his BMW 316i: "My contribution was to ensure that it was silver"

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Behaving like the lead car in previous answer.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

When I was 18, I drove some friends from a college on the New Hampshire-Vermont border. We loaded up a full Plymouth Sport Fury (green this time) and drove to a girls' school, where each of the boys picked up a female companion for a trip into New York State where the drinking age was lower. Three people sat on the floor, four in the back seat, two in the front seat next to me, and two in the boot.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

I was caught speeding on my way from New Jersey to New Hampshire in the Bronx. A belligerent patrolman claimed I had been doing 60 in a 50mph limit. Maybe 57, but it was never 60. But I have always made it a policy not to argue with a man with a gun. So, after he shouted at me until he was hoarse, I pleaded guilty and paid the fine.

What do you listen to in the car?

Radio and compact discs. I have a choice of 32 radio stations in the BMW, too many even for an inveterate button pusher like me.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Nationalise the railways and give London Transport the millions of pounds it has been starved of in the last 15 years.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

This may cause curses from my friends in advertising, but I can't remember a single car commercial that is not running.

British brainwave that could put motorists miles ahead

Backed by the legendary Cosworth name, the Merritt engine offers a double bonus, says **Hugh Hunston**

Conceiving, designing and building a petrol engine which is markedly more economical and cleaner than state-of-the-art diesel units could add the name Merritt to those of Otto, Diesel and Wankel in the internal combustion Hall of Fame.

In conjunction with Coventry University and Cosworth Engineering, Dan Merritt believes his invention can win the "very, very big prize" of doubling the distance covered for each gallon consumed by a conventional petrol car while creating a cleaner motoring environment.

By the end of this year Cosworth, better known for high performance, high-tech motorsport engines, hopes to have the Merritt Cycle engine running a nondescript family hatchback. The fact that Cosworth's advanced research and development unit in Northampton has become involved, by buying rights to develop the power plant to a production stage, has added corporate credibility to Dr Merritt's aspirations.

The technology is housed in a one-cylinder, 440cc testbed unit with the object of refining it to the point of adding three more cylinders to create a "real engine". While major car firms have shown interest, commercial caution dictates that they want an operational and comparable piece of hardware before sinking funds and reputations into the search for the economic and environmental advantage.

Dubbed the "Series Eight" — Dr Merritt has already taken out seven previous patents on his invention — the latest application will probably challenge non-engineers to tell the difference by peering under an engine bay.

Externally, the unit may be slightly taller than a conventional petrol engine by virtue of the radical workings within its higher cylinder head configuration. In simplistic terms, the Merritt Cycle Spark Ignition system involves a small second piston in a form of antechamber, incorporated within the cylinder head, where critical "mixing" of fuel and air is carried out before it is forced into the combustion chamber for ignition. The small piston or "mush valve" is linked by a common overhead camshaft and runs at half the speed of the conventional larger piston's parallel four (induction, compression, ignition and exhaust) strokes. It first moves down as fuel enters the mini-cylinder above.

This happens during the exhaust stroke, as the main piston rises and expels exhaust gases. As the engine draws in air during induction, the special valve continues to move down and the fuel vaporises into a very rich fuel/air mixture.

During upward compression stroke, the valve-shaped piston also moves up, and pushes the mixture into the combustion chamber, where it is ignited by a conventional spark plug and the hot expanding gas forces down the piston on power stroke.

By separating the fuel mixture and compressed air until the last, or optimum, moment before combustion, the process makes for far more efficient burning of fuel. This results in a marked improvement in mechanical efficiency. This gives the fuel a faster burn rate, releasing energy more rapidly.

The process has allowed Cosworth to apply a 15:1 compression ratio — far higher than that of conventional petrol engines. Mike Fry, Cosworth's principle research and development engineer, also talks of air/fuel ratios of between 16:1 and the ultra-lean extreme of 75:1.

Apart from obvious economy and emission advantages over a diesel, the Merritt Cycle engine can run at up to 6,000rpm, so providing superior low torque flexibility and driveability not normally associated with "oil burners".

Ironically, the PhD research project was started 12 years ago on igniting fuel with a platinum catalyst on the walls of a combustion chamber. It has resulted in a system that eliminates the need for a precious metal catalytic converter. It promises to expel virtually no particulates, which have been linked with cancer, while the amount of hydrocarbons or unburnt fuel is significantly lower than conventional petrol counterparts.

Lower fuel consumption and cleaner exhaust emissions are reason enough for corporate enthusiasm, but the fact that conventional engineering could be applied in producing the Merritt engine dispels anxiety about exotic materials and technology which requires prolonged proving routines.

Cosworth insiders, who hope to have an operational vehicle running early next year, believe Merritt-powered vehicles could be on sale between five and ten years from now. Dr Merritt puts the timescale at nearer four years, adding: "What it really comes down to is how badly the car makers want it.

"Even if the engine was not superior on the emissions front, which it is, the potential of going twice the distance on the same fuel is a major environmental benefit."

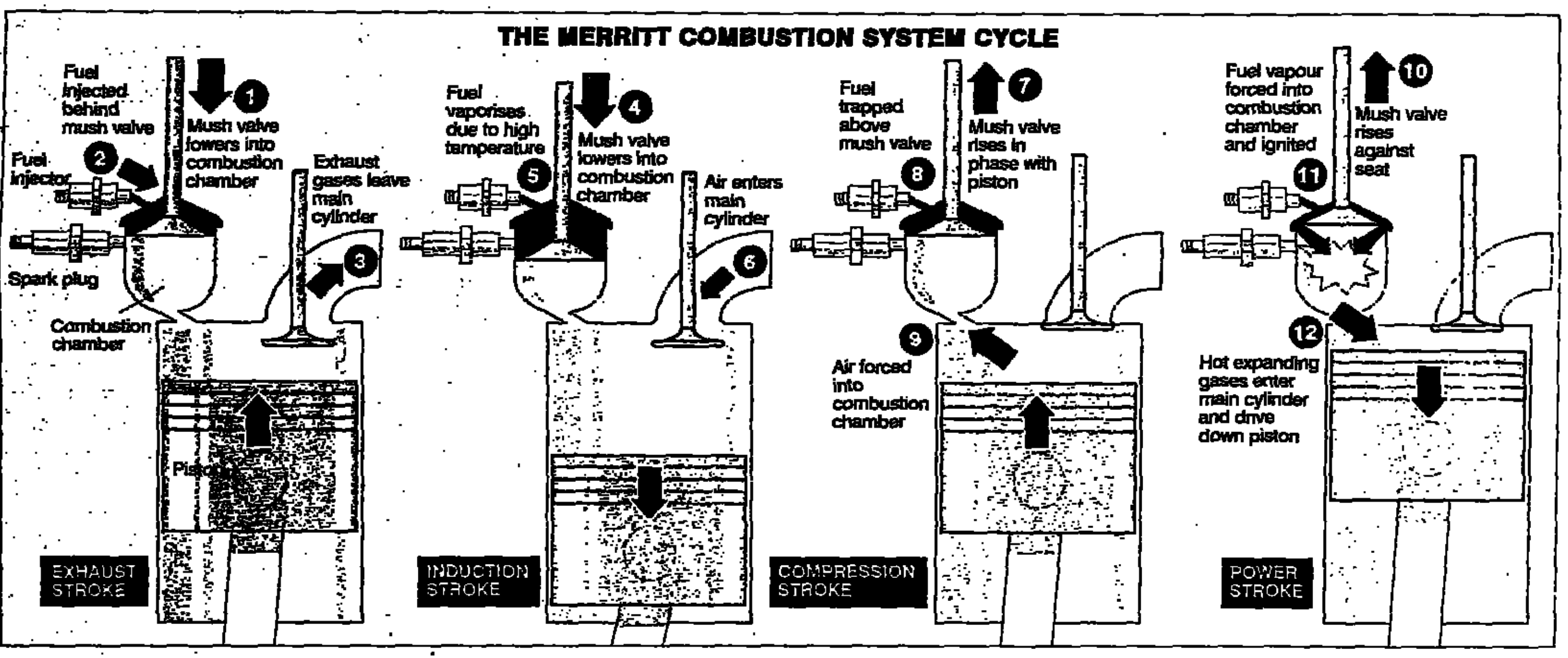
Halving pollution — on the fuel consumed basis alone — is a prime motivator when the explosion of car ownership in emerging nations requires radical environmental solutions. An average small car, returning 30mpg over 10,000 miles a year, spews out 3.5 tons of carbon dioxide.

Dr Merritt and his Cosworth colleagues are wary about predicting the scale of projected fuel savings, with theoretical estimates varying from 30 to 60 per cent of the fuel used by current petrol cars. If it uses half the fuel, it travels double the distance. That could translate into a 70mpg average during stop-start urban use.

Delighted that a British invention is being developed by a leading British engineering firm, Dr Merritt believes the lack of a threat to vested interests surrounding conventional engine technology is an added bonus.

"I suppose if you can go twice the distance on the same fuel then someone will probably double the price of the petrol," he speculated.

THE MERRITT COMBUSTION SYSTEM CYCLE


Fuel injected behind mush valve
① Mush valve lowers into combustion chamber
② Fuel injector
Spark plug
Combustion chamber
Exhaust gases leave main cylinder
③
Piston
EXHAUST STROKE
Fuel vaporises due to high temperature
④ Mush valve lowers into combustion chamber
⑤
Air enters main cylinder
⑥
INDUCTION STROKE
Fuel trapped above mush valve
⑦ Mush valve rises in phase with piston
⑧
⑨ Air forced into combustion chamber
COMPRESSION STROKE
Fuel vapour forced into combustion chamber and ignited
⑩ Mush valve rises against seat
⑪
⑫ Hot expanding gases enter main cylinder and drive down piston
POWER STROKE

Alan Copps on the latest registration plate auctions

A number of ways to get yourself noticed

IF YOU have just spent £329,000 on a red Ferrari F50 then why not treat yourself to the perfect number plate? The registration F50 RED could be yours for about £8,000 — small change, really — at a forthcoming sale.

Or if you forgot Valentine's Day, you have the perfect chance to make amends on Monday. For £15,000 to £18,000 each you could buy the registration marks H 15 and HER 5. They each come with a Mini attached, but that might be just enough to smooth things over with an offended partner.

Auctions of registrations are becoming almost as frequent as those of cars, and in the next few weeks those on offer include some of the most sought-after numbers, although prices are unlikely to equal the £203,500 paid for the plate K 1 NGS at Christie's in 1993. It is said that on that occasion the representatives of two monarchs bid against each other up to 20 times the original estimate.

But among the previously unissued numbers to be sold for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency by Brooks at the Conference Forum in London on March 1 is one that might interest our own Sovereign — 1 ER — a comparative snip at an estimated £16,000-plus.

Although the sale has several N-registration plates, including N1 NJA, N1 CKY, N1 VEN and N1 XON, most of them are numbers which could have been issued years ago when licensing was in the hands of local authorities, but for one reason or another were never used. The top lot, on estimates at least, is 1 Y at £18,000-plus, which might have been handed out in rural Somerset.

Byron Roberts, who leads the DVLA's "Sale of Marks" marketing team, says: "There are two types of registrations on sale. The affordable marks, which people can request through our telephone sales service, and those we choose to auction. These are a bit special."

Mr Roberts is the great defender of these sales against the charge that cherished plates are simply an example of a Government agency dealing in trivia: "Since 1989 we have sold more than 400,000 personalised plates and generated £195 million for the Exchequer. What we are doing is meeting a demand that was already there and was previously exploited by private companies. Now it benefits the taxpayer."

A sale at Christie's in December raised £1.2 million, and the Brooks' sale, by coincidence for a Swansea-based institution being held on St David's Day, is expected to raise a similar sum. Another recent sale in Glasgow, which included the registration 1 OCH and C1 ANS, raised more than £2 million, the highest price being £40,000 paid for N1 ALL after some fierce bidding.

One thing the DVLA has done to help such bidding along is to carry out research into what initials or groups of letters occur most frequently in various parts of the country. For example, anything ending in M is likely to sell in Scotland because of the preponderance of surnames starting with Mac; similarly anything ending in D or J is likely to sell in Wales, where the Davises like to keep up with the Joneses.

The Brooks sale includes several numbers appealing to owners of particular cars. Apart from the F50 for a Ferrari, there is 10 TUS for a Lotus, POR 911T for anyone who feels a Porsche Turbo needs further enhancement, NSX 1 for a Honda owner and 1 TR for a Triumph enthusiast.

Well-lettered: there's even one that the Queen might like

But if you'd prefer a car, the twin Minis are in a Christie's sale at the Jack Barclay Showrooms in London SW8 that also includes a classic restoration project, the dismembered parts of the 1934 Aston Martin Ulster driven by Prince Birabonge Bhanubandh of Siam, the amateur racing driver who preferred to be known as B. Bira. The Ulster is regarded as the height of Aston's pre-war racing development.

And if you are looking for a way to mark the centenary of the British motor industry, then Brooks also has a sale at Olympia next Thursday that includes one of the oldest cars around: an 1894 two-seater Benz Velo 1.5hp. A veteran of many a London to Brighton run, it carries an estimate of £55,00-£60,000 and comes with the impressive number plate A 6.

DR DASHBOARD

Dangers of a bull market

Q **How did bull bars, those metal frames on the front of 4WD vehicles, originate?**

A They began as "roo bars" in Australia or "moose bars" in the US to protect vehicles travelling in remote areas in the event of collision with animals. It seems that kangaroos and moose lack any road sense and hitting one at speed can do a lot of damage to car and driver — as well as to the animal.

Q **So are they useful here or just fashion accessories?**

A Well, it's difficult to think of anywhere in Britain where the wildlife is big enough to merit such precautions. There might be some justification for using them off the road, but on the road they really are just decoration.

Q **Surely if you are hit by a 4WD you're going to get hurt bars or not?**

A That's true. But concern voiced by the Transport Research Laboratory centres mainly on children. The top bars are just about head height for a youngster and the fear is that the protruding bar will cause far more damage than the bonnet of a vehicle, which usually slopes back. Tests suggest that a child could be killed by a 12mph collision with a bar, while it could survive a 25mph collision otherwise.

Q **But I thought I'd read about a dispute over that research?**

A According to the RAC, the real annual death toll from accidents involving bars could be 70. The TRL report, due out next month, may suggest about half that figure. It seems the TRL's research was partly based on a survey of police forces and only 30 of the 50 asked to provide data responded.

Q **What is the view of the people who make these things? Are they concerned?**

A The Association of Protector Bar Manufacturers say they have seen the police reports and do not support the alarm. Only five pedestrian deaths could be directly blamed on the bars. Of the others, the speed and circumstances of the accident indicated that it would have been fatal whether the vehicle was fitted with bars or not.

Q **I thought there were moves last year to get them banned?**

A Right. Last year a number of MPs campaigned for a ban, backed by the RAC, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and even John Major expressed his concern. A Bill to ban them has been introduced in the House of Lords and on Wednesday a similar Ten-minute Rule Bill was put before the Commons by the Labour MP Paul Flynn. But such measures rarely become law.

Q **If there is so much opposition to them, what is the problem?**

A It appears that, however much concern there is here, we can't take action until the EC decides to introduce a ban. The European Parliament has voted for one, but that has yet to be turned into legislation.

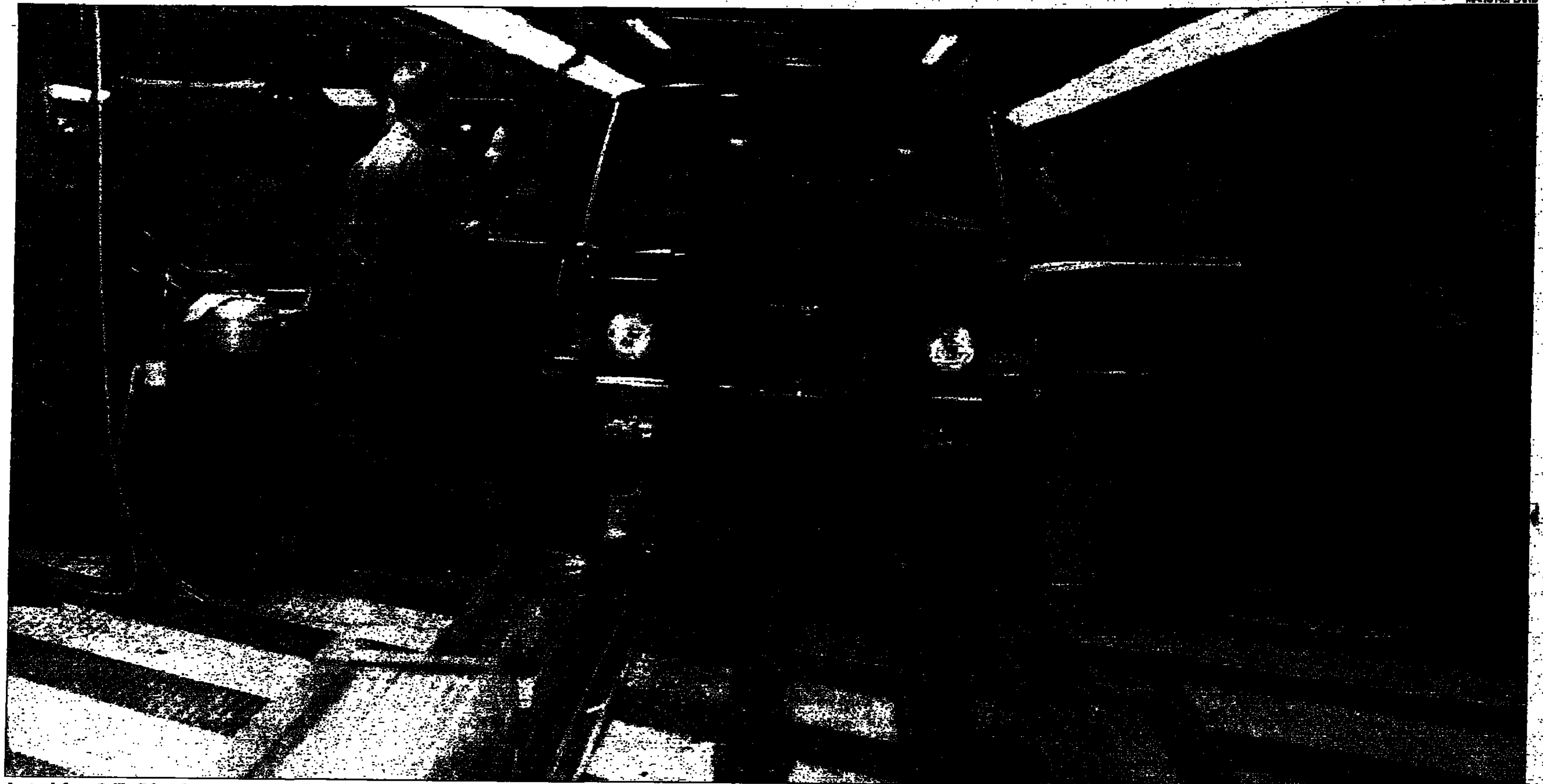
Q **But surely the manufacturers don't have to wait for a change in the law if there is so much concern?**

A Right again. Some manufacturers, including Mitsubishi, Suzuki and Ford, have already introduced "deformable" bars made of softer material. These give on impact and cause far less damage.

هكذا فن الرحيل

Made in Britain, it became a benchmark of excellence. **Hilton Holloway** marks the passing of a Rover classic

MARC ASPLAND



Last exit from Solihull for what became a favoured hunting vehicle of sheiks, an Anglophile status symbol in America, all-purpose transport in the Shires, a lifestyle statement in prosperous suburbs — and made Margaret Thatcher do a U-turn

End of a Range of 26 years

At precisely 11am on Thursday of this week, a select few people witnessed the death of a classic. Not any classic, but an icon of British design that changed the face of world motoring and still influences carmakers all over the globe.

The Range Rover Classic is finally making way at Land Rover's Solihull factory for the hugely popular Discovery and hi-tech new model Range Rover. Surely no other car has invented a market sector, become a status symbol and has still been regarded as unbeatable 26 years later?

The Range Rover was a peculiarly British success story. It was born out of the instincts of a small number of engineers and became as much a symbol of the British way of life as the faded country house and Barbour jacket. Even the formidable Margaret Thatcher was caught out by the country's love for it. The lady had to make an unscheduled U-turn when plans leaked out in 1986 that her government wanted to sell state-owned Land Rover to General Motors.

Three men who created the legend were Rover engineers Gordon Bashford and Spen King and Rover stylist David Bache. However, the foresight of the Rover company bosses Maurice and Spencer Wilks was remarkable. They set out as far back as the early 1950s to create a luxurious, but versatile, version of it's spartan Land Rover, primarily for road use. It was called the Road-Rover.

Wilks, Bashford, King and Bache struggled long and hard through the 1950s to try and perfect the style of the Road-Rover. According to Spen King: "It was a jolly nice vehicle. I had a Road-Rover, and in its early forms it was very good indeed." It came close to production, but in 1960 the whole project was abandoned.

Then, in the early 1960s, the company sent Graham Bannock, one of the Land Rover team, to America to conduct some formal market research. He returned convinced that the next big thing would be four-wheel drive vehicles for leisure use. "I've spoken to Graham about this," says King, "and it was a remarkable coincidence. He came up with the same conclusion we did — we needed to build a car like the Range Rover."

Finally, they had the right formula — a luxury Land Rover, using the chassis and four-wheel drive running gear. By 1966 the project had found its feet and, after experimenting with various transmissions, they settled on the famous long-travel suspension and permanent four-wheel drive that would establish the car's long reign as off-road king.

One to remember: an icon that changed world motoring

Dubbed the 100-inch Station Wagon, the next stroke of genius was the timeless styling. This was not originally the slick work of a stylist's pen, but a creation of Bashford and King. "Actually, I don't see the styling as being that important," says King. "It probably took up less than 2 per cent of our time." Their prototype was then tweaked by Bache into the shape we know now; elegant, timeless and never equalled. The Range Rover finally went on sale in 1970.

It was launched in the rugged surroundings of the Blue Hills Mine at St Agnes, Cornwall and in 1972 the British Trans-Americas expedition used it to cross the continent through the Darien Gap, the first vehicle to make the journey. Two years later it completed a 7,500-mile West to East crossing of the Sahara in 100 days, and in 1981 a Range Rover was outright winner of the Paris-Dakar rally. In the Middle East it became the favoured hunting vehicle of sheiks, in the US an Anglophile status symbol, in the Shires it was an all-purpose vehicle, in Britain's prosperous suburbs a lifestyle statement.

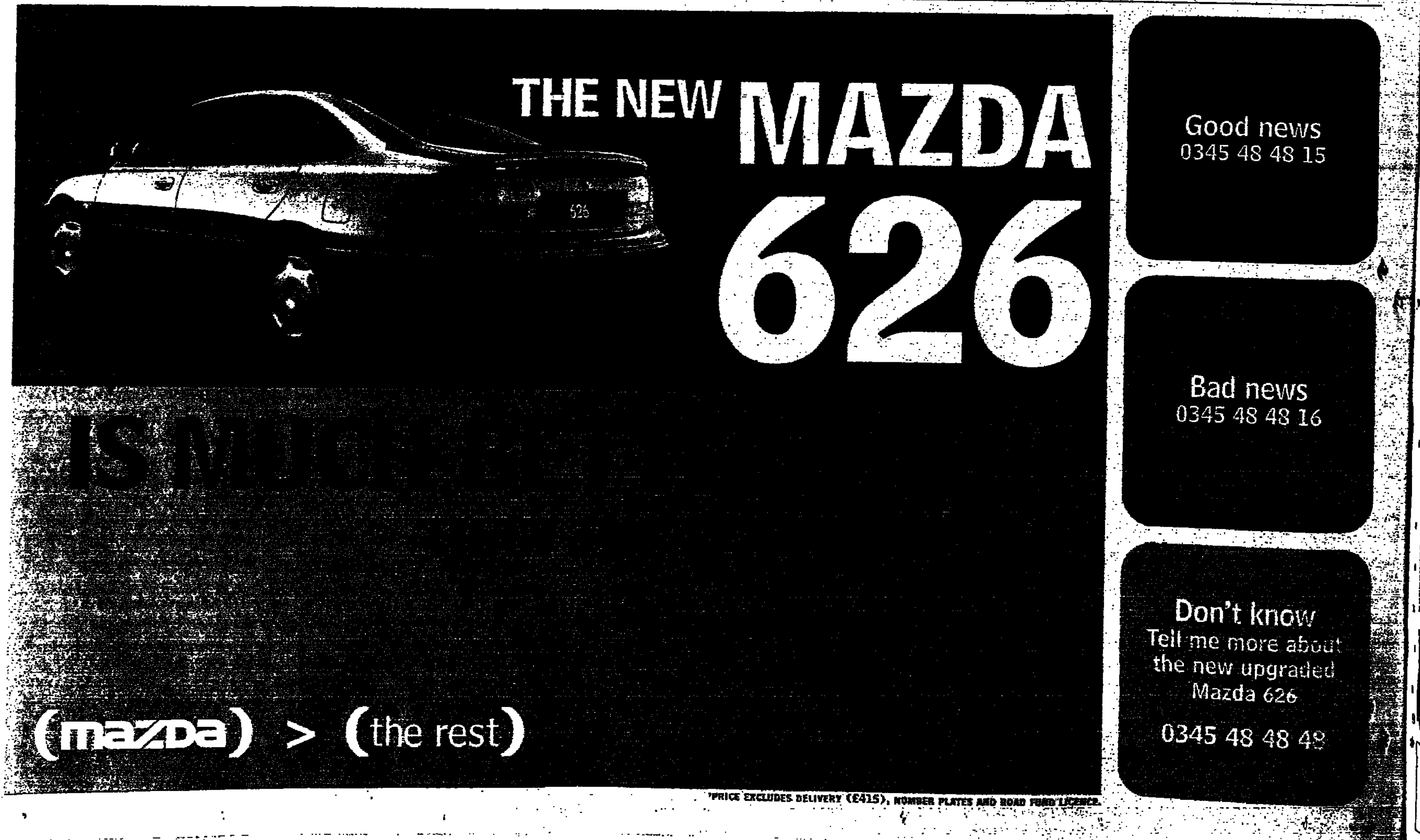
It is a testament to the rightness of the original design that it remained practically unaltered right into the 1980s, although subtle improvements were made.

Ironically, the Range Rover did not make it on to the American market, for which it was originally intended, until March 1987. It also took 11 years for a four-door version to appear, and the spartan interior remained rather more "Land" than "Rover" for many years.

The Range Rover has been exhibited at the Louvre as an exemplar of modern industrial design and was widely praised for its export achievements; more than 60 per cent of production regularly went overseas. With typical reluctance, King will admit to the Range Rover being his greatest achievement in a distinguished career, "although of course it was shared with others. It probably had the best effect on our balance of payments of anything I was involved in".

King was honoured by Land Rover in 1990 when it released a special edition "CSK" (Charles Spencer King), version. He is still very much occupied with engineering through his own company, Spen King Associates. When asked what he thinks of the all-new Range Rover, particularly that car's controversial appearance, he is unexpectedly positive: "My wife and I were lent one when we were on holiday in the States, where it stood out as a distinctive and likeable vehicle." But he will concede that the new Range Rover "looks a little too like Japanese rivals, and it will not last as long as the original".

And is King sad to see the end of the Range Rover? "Well, I'm a bit sad, but I'm not weeping." He is, he says, far more interested in the future than the past.



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